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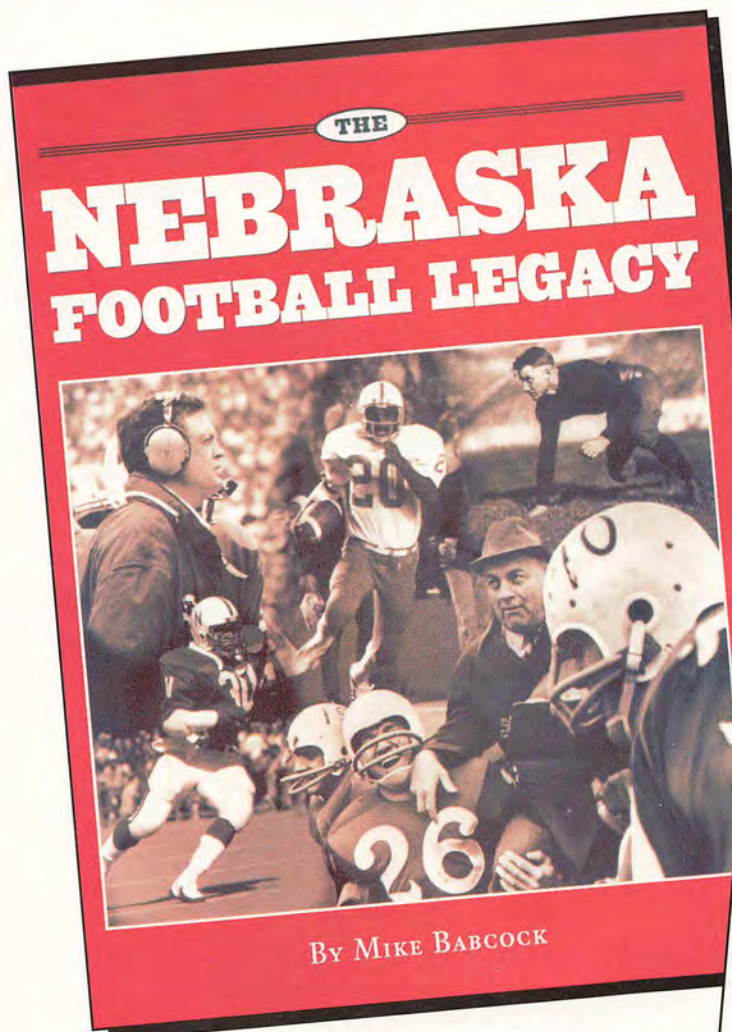
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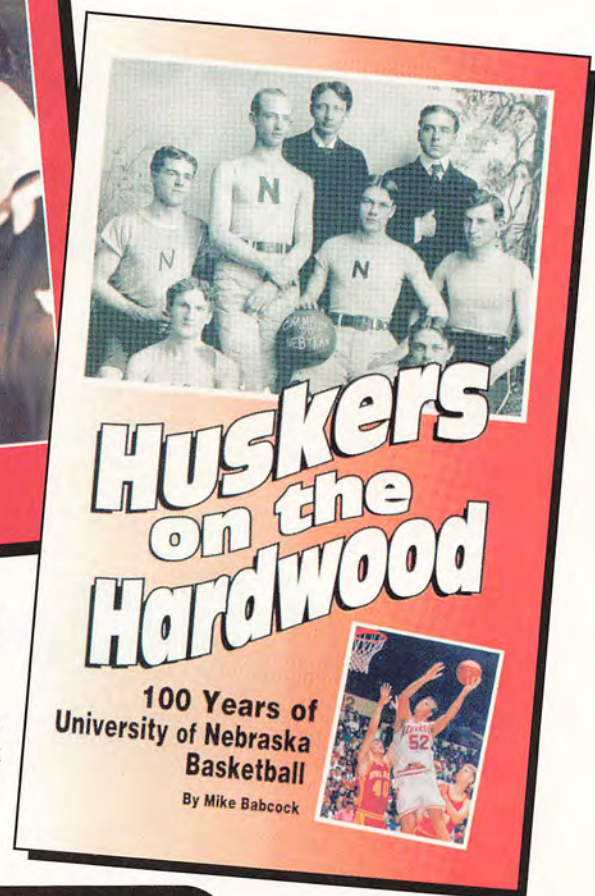
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Robert Bennett

**EDITORIAL & OPERATIONS
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Chris Greer

PRODUCTION
Jeff Cannon, Homer Jacobs, Blain Fowler,
John McFarland

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jeff Tudor

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING
COORDINATOR**
Todd McVeigh

CIRCULATION
Laura Hawk, Ann Johnston

ACCOUNTING
Kathleen Newton, Carolyn Rhodes

SALES MANAGER
Moses Padron

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mike Babcock, Mark Derowitsch, Mike
Friend, James Hale, Nebraska Sports
Information Office

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Bob Berry, William Lauer

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F E A T U R E S

Knock On Wood . . 12

Bad luck took its toll on senior Tony Veland, who's keeping his fingers crossed and hoping the worst is over.

Mirror, Mirror . . . 22

Much like Tom Osborne once did, first-year coach Colorado Rick Neuheisel has taken over a national contender and kept it rolling.
By Mike Babcock

End Zone Jones . . 38

Keith Jones was an electrifying back, scoring a touchdown on every 12th carry.

Medal Moment. . . 49

Janet Blomstedt becomes first NU athlete to win an individual international junior track and field title with heptathlon victory.
By Mark Derowitsch



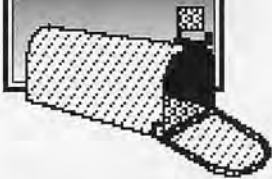
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LETTERS



Two things I'd like to address with you.

First, your series on former Nebraska running backs is very informative and well written. To be able to read about some who played even prior to my generation's existence is great. It gives a true insight into the deep Nebraska tradition.

Secondly, I think a continuing feature on former Huskers in a "Where Are They Now?" format would quickly become one of your most popular segments of *Huskers Illustrated*.

Jim Stewart Jr.
Newark, N.J.

I am a Nebraskan who works on

the U.S. Navy's base in Yokosuka, Japan, and have been a Cornhusker fan since the glory days of the early 1970s. There are lots of people here from all over the states, including a lot of college football fans. Needless to say, I had been getting pretty tired of hearing bad things about the Huskers from "Florida is the best" types and other myopic East Coast football fans. So it's been great to be able to spend the past year wearing my Nebraska championship caps and shirts around the base.

It looks like this year's Cornhuskers are awesome, and they stand a good chance to win it all again.

We don't often get a lot of Nebraska game coverage here in Japan, so your summaries contain great information. However, for those of us not able to watch the game on TV or listen to it on the radio, a more detailed account of the game would sure help.

Additionally, the more pictures you can include, the better, especially one- or two-page photo spreads that are suitable for posting over the water cooler for the rest of the office

to see. The picture on page 18 of the Sept. 16, 1995 issue (Chad Kelsay sacking Michigan State quarterback Tony Banks) was a classic.

John P. Niemeyer
FPO, AP

I have had to endure criticism and mockery of Nebraska's football schedule during recent years. I've lost "good" friends over excessive teasing, but I realize that most people are totally ignorant to the situation or simply ignore their own favorite team's competition. Now when people ask me, "Why is Nebraska playing Pacific?" I say, "because some other team chickened out." Here's my opinion on the situation, and let the naysayers yak away as Nebraska wins another title.

First of all, I believe that Nebraska did play some soft schedules in the late 1980s and early 1990s. There is some truth in the recent past, but the last three seasons have probably been above average. See how many teams Nebraska played that went to bowls — five last year and six in 1993.

No game is easy until played and won. For example, two words and four numbers: Iowa State and 1992.

When scheduling a team in 1990 and playing them in 1995, who's to say what that team will be like? I'm sure when Nebraska scheduled Florida State for the 1980 game, who knew? FSU was almost ready to drop football a couple of years before the game.

Teams also drop out. That's why we got Middle Tennessee State back in 1992. I also hear that Nebraska tried to put Notre Dame back on the schedule, but the Irish wanted us to play them for four years at South Bend. Get real.

And the bottom line is, who really wants to play Nebraska? Do teams have a burning passion to play us for reasons other than the money?

I got over the schedule thing back on Jan. 2, 1994, after we "beat" Florida State. I knew we had a good team and we were 17-point underdogs. Last year's national title proved that point.

Mark P. Vrtiska
Starkville, Miss.

I would like to say thank you for your excellent publication. I have been a lifelong Husker fan even though I have not had the opportunity to see the team play in person.

Growing up and living in the

Husker Trivia

1: In the five-year period from 1942 through 1946, how many different head football coaches did Nebraska have?

2: Name the Husker quarterback who threw the longest touchdown pass in NU football history.

3: Who established Nebraska's single-game rushing record by a running back?

4: Which NU player established the single-game record for most pass receptions by a tight end and how many?

5: On Oct. 6, 1991, Tyrone Hughes tied an NCAA record against Kansas State with a great return. What record did he match?

Answers to last week's questions (Oct. 21 issue)

1: Tight end Mark Gilman hauled in a 19-yard scoring pass from Brook Berringer in the second quarter for Nebraska's only scoring pass in the 1995 Orange Bowl. **2:** Bob Devaney has served as the athletic director emeritus since 1993. His primary function is in fund-raising for the university. **3:** Steve Runtz stepped in as Tom Osborne's first quarterback when Dave Humm hurt his knee. Runtz made the most of his starting opportunity, completing 9-of-11 passes for 105 yards and one score. **4:** Rozier scored 174 points in 1983 to crush the previous record of 157 points established by Bobby Reynolds. **5:** Nebraska first used the Fumbleroosky against Oklahoma in 1979. Randy Schleusner picked up Jeff Quinn's fumble and scored from the 15-yard line.

One request we always get is for a Nebraska trivia section to be added to *Huskers Illustrated*. Well, the wait is over. Starting with this issue, each week we'll provide five questions from Lowell Greunke's trivia book "Husker Trivia." You'll have a week to mull over the answer before we print the answers. If you'd like a copy of "Husker Trivia," send a check for \$13.95 to: Husker Trivia, P.O. Box 44142, Omaha, NE, 68144

Deep South makes it very difficult to get good information and articles concerning the Huskers.

We are usually bombarded by media coverage of the ACC and SEC. Your magazine has made it possible for me to get the information and stories I crave. Your magazine is a real blessing. Keep up the good work as the Huskers roll toward another national championship.

James E. Judge
Ahoshie, N.C.

How come Tommie Frazier's name is not mentioned in all the Heisman hype? Before the season both Frazier and I-back Lawrence Phillips were strong candidates. But it seems ever since Phillips was dismissed that the media has forgotten about Frazier.

All he's done is win every regular season game except one since starting as a freshman against Missouri. Sure he doesn't put up Danny Kanell or Danny Wuerffel passing numbers. Nebraska's offense doesn't ask him to do that. I thought the Heisman was for the player who did the most for his team, not the guy with the biggest numbers.

Without Frazier, Nebraska could easily stumble on its way to the national title. He provides the leadership and calming effect that picks teams up and makes them champions. Leaving Frazier out of the Heisman hype could be the single biggest act of injustice this year.

David Murphy
San Antonio, Texas

Personally, I'm glad to see the Colorado game take the place of the Oklahoma contest as the last regular-season game. I think it strengthens the schedule and helps the players focus on the end of the year. It seems that in the last few years, the team tapers off after the Colorado game. This way, we will play as hard as possible throughout the year so that the Colorado game will decide the conference champion.

Oklahoma has always viewed Texas as its main rivalry. So it's only natural for Nebraska to move on and find another opponent.

Paul Sippowitz
Boulder, Colo.

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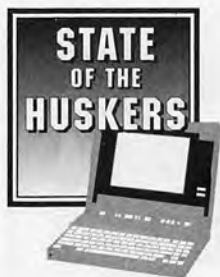
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Showdown Shuffle

The formation of the Big 12 doomed the NU-OU series, but it did provide the opening for a marquee game against Colorado

By **MIKE BABCOCK**

Moving the Nebraska-Colorado game to the end of the football season was logical — and hence, inevitable.

Bill McCartney would be pleased. Colorado's former head coach encouraged such an arrangement, after bringing success to the program that a youthful Rick Neuheisel has inherited. McCartney wanted the game to be the focus of the Big Eight season, a showdown of title contenders.

Beginning in 1996, that will be the case, sort of. The conference will be the Big 12 instead of the Big Eight, and the game will determine a northern division champion, at best. But Nebraska and Colorado will play each other on a regular basis at

the end of November starting in 1996. The game will probably attract national television coverage more seasons than not.

As a result, Nebraska's game with Oklahoma will be played in early November in 1996 and 1997. In 1998 and 1999, it won't be played at all, unless the Big 12 has a championship game by then and the Cornhuskers and Sooners win divisional titles.

College football tradition has given way to profit considerations. The worth of a rivalry is determined by price rather than by history.

The Cornhuskers have finished their regular season against Oklahoma 27 times since 1962, Bob Devaney's first year as head coach. The Sooners have finished against Nebraska every season since 1986.

Prior to that, they often played intrastate rival Oklahoma State after their game with Nebraska.

Even so, the Cornhuskers have been the focus of Oklahoma's conference season most years since 1962. That's because one or the other has won or shared 31 Big Eight football titles. There have been only 35.

The Nebraska-Oklahoma game will wrap up this final Big Eight season in Lincoln on November 24, the day after Thanksgiving. It will be a fitting finish for the conference, which, as indicated earlier, has been dominated by the Cornhuskers and Sooners since becoming the Big Eight in 1960.

Ever season since 1988, both Colorado and Nebraska have been ranked in the AP Top 20.





A Nebraska-Oklahoma finale was doomed almost from the day Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor joined the Big Eight schools to form the Big 12. The size of the new conference demanded a divisional alignment, with north and south the most reasonable divisions.

Initially, there was some talk of maintaining an annual Nebraska-Oklahoma game. But the traditionalists were bound to be disappointed. It wasn't going to continue. The Sooners' biggest rival has always been Texas rather than Nebraska. And the Oklahoma-Texas series will continue every season in the Big 12's divisional setup. Oklahoma and Nebraska have no good reason, save tradition, for playing each other every season now.

The Sooners will finish their conference season against Texas Tech in 1996 and 1997, according to schedules released recently by the Big 12. The southern division's post-Thanksgiving showcase will feature traditional rivals Texas and Texas A&M. The divisional alignment also will allow Kansas and Missouri to continue their traditional season-ending game. Only Nebraska-Oklahoma must be sacrificed for the good of the new league.

Even though Nebraska never bought into McCartney's manufactured rivalry, it has evolved naturally as a result of Colorado's success. In 1989 and 1990, the Buffaloes won the Big Eight championship, with Nebraska as runner-up. (The Cornhuskers tied Oklahoma for second in 1990.) In 1991, the teams tied for the title after tying during the season. And the last three seasons, Nebraska has finished first to Colorado's second.

Every season since 1988, both teams have been rated in The Associated Press Top 20. Twice, including last season, the game has matched No. 2 Colorado against No.

The dream matchup former Colorado coach Bill McCartney had envisioned for years came two seasons too late for him to see.

3 Nebraska. Both of those times, the winner went on to earn a national championship.

After succeeding McCartney as head coach, Neuheisel downplayed the designated rivalry involving Nebraska, at least publicly. The series could use some downplaying. It has taken on a hard, bitter edge recently.

"No disrespect to Nebraska. They're certainly the team to beat in our league," Neuheisel said. "I was rooting for them when they played

for the national championship. But I don't want this to be a rivalry if they don't want it to be. Bill's idea was that we needed some tradition. But the Nebraska game is big enough by itself.

"Besides, our kids may have gotten so high they lost their focus because of the rivalry designation."

Last spring, when a Nebraska-Colorado season finale was supposedly just a rumor, Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne offered his opinion.

"I guess it doesn't matter to me, except that going to Colorado in late November has a better chance of cold weather than going to Oklahoma in late November," he said.

But so it must be. ■

Attention computer users: Is this...

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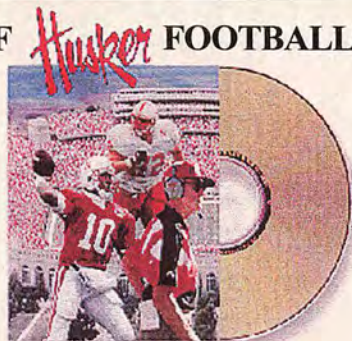
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Rudy Retired

With about five minutes remaining in the Nebraska football team's 70-21 victory over Pacific last season, Adam Kucera ran onto the field at Memorial Stadium, greeted by cheers of "Rudy, Rudy."

The reference was to a popular movie named "Rudy," about a walk-on football player at Notre Dame.

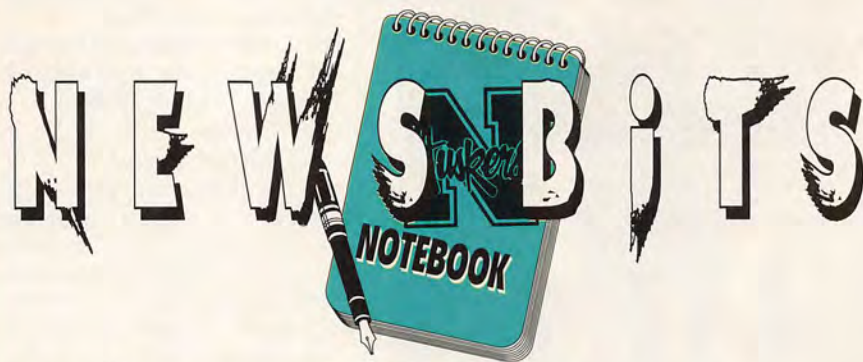
Kucera gained 4 yards on one carry and attempted one pass, which was incomplete. That was the extent of his playing career at Nebraska. It was his Andy Warhol 15 minutes of fame.

A month before the Pacific game, Kucera was a Cornhusker student manager. He was a 5-foot-8, 180-pound freshman from Lake Havasu City, Ariz., who had played quarterback in high school for his father and coach Bill Kucera, a former Nebraska graduate assistant.

Kucera was pressed into service on the Cornhuskers' scout team after they came up short of quarterbacks during preseason practice.

Nebraska used 104 players that afternoon. And he was among them.

Kucera became an instant celebrity. He was interviewed by *Sports Illustrated* and drew attention from ESPN. He earned Big Eight and national championship rings. Now, he's back to being a football student manager and focusing on his pre-med studies. ■



Finally a Hall of Famer

Rich Glover became the first Nebraska player from the 1970 and 1971 national championship teams inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame earlier this fall. That made the award even more special for Glover.

"That's why it's such a big honor for me," said Glover, a former defensive lineman from Jersey City, N.J. "I'm the first player from that group to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. That's amazing when you think back about all the great players who were on those Nebraska teams."

Glover may be forgetting what a great player he was when he played for Nebraska. As a senior in 1972, he won the Outland and Lombardi trophies and was third in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy, given to the best college football player each season. Ironically, Glover's teammate, Johnny Rodgers, won the Heisman that year.

In addition, Glover earned All-America honors twice and was a Lombardi Trophy finalist during his junior season.

What Husker fans may remember Glover for most was his play in 1971 against Oklahoma, a game many college football experts call the "Game of the Century." Against the Sooners, Glover came through with a 22-tackle performance to lead the Huskers to a 35-31 win on their way to their second consecutive national championship.

Among the college football greats inducted with Glover were Louisiana State defensive back Tommy Casanova, Oklahoma running back and Heisman winner Billy Sims and Syracuse running back Jim Brown.

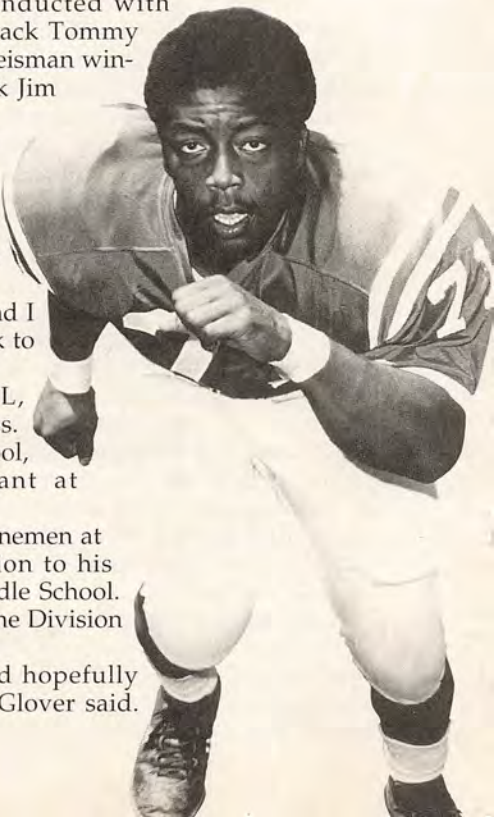
Glover was Nebraska's first recruit from Jersey City. Former Husker assistant coach Monte Kiffin, who was working under head coach Bob Devaney at the time, convinced Glover to leave the East Coast behind for Nebraska.

"They got me to go out to Nebraska, and I did well enough that they kept going back to New Jersey to get players," he said.

After a four-year career in the NFL, Glover moved into the coaching business. He spent one season at his old high school, then spent four years as an assistant at Washington State.

These days, Glover coaches defensive linemen at San Jose (Calif.) City College, in addition to his teaching duties there and at Quimby Middle School. However, Glover would like to return to the Division I level as a coach soon.

"Now I'm a Hall of Fame player, and hopefully some day I'll be a Hall of Fame coach," Glover said. "That would be something." ■





SETTLING THE SCORE

Husker outside linebacker Grant Wistrom (98) didn't want Missouri running back Brock Olivo (27) to get the best of him again.

Wistrom, a sophomore from Webb City, Mo., was beaten out by Olivo as the Missouri high school player of the year when they were both seniors.

But when the Huskers faced Missouri on Oct. 14, Olivo carried the ball 11 times and gained just 10 yards in the Huskers' 57-0 victory in Lincoln. "I'm happy he didn't do well today, but I wish him luck the rest of the year," Wistrom said of Olivo.

Nebraska, in posting its first shutout of the season, held the Tigers to just 112 yards, 49 of which came on the ground.

Wistrom, who finished with three tackles against the Tigers, said his favorite play was when he crashed into Missouri's Brandon Corso the moment the quarterback released the ball.

"I got him right under the chin," Wistrom said. "When you hit a quarterback like that, he tends to remember it when he steps back in the pocket the next time. He gets nervous." ■

BIG-TIME REBOUND

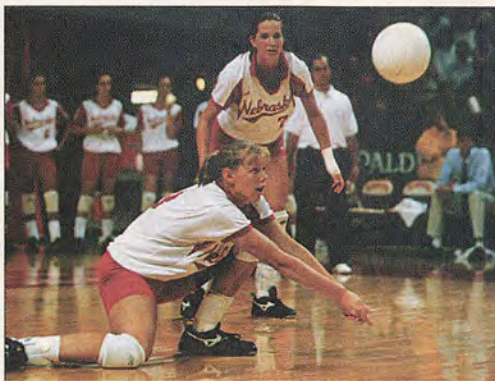
Nebraska two-time All-American middle blocker Allison Weston had what she regarded as the worst performance of her career Oct. 7 at Iowa State, where she finished with only eight kills in the Huskers' three-game triumph.

"It was very, very frustrating," Weston said. "It couldn't have gotten any worse."

Weston came back well from that disappointing match in Ames. On Oct. 11 at Kansas State, she hammered a match-high 17 kills as Nebraska cruised in three games.

Then in Nebraska's next match, Oct. 14 at Missouri, Weston led the Huskers with 11 kills in a three-game victory.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit



expected Weston to come back strong after the Iowa State match.

"She knows how to make adjustments, and she did," Pettit said. "I think she can be hard on herself. And sports is not a good place to be a perfectionist." ■

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KNOCK *ON* WOOD

Bad luck took its toll on senior Tony Veland, who's keeping his fingers crossed and hoping the worst is over

If not for bad luck, Tony Veland would have no luck at all.

Or so it has seemed during much of his football career at Nebraska.

Veland, a senior, is the Cornhuskers' starting free safety and a co-captain this season. That he is even around to accomplish such things is evidence of his persistence.

Misfortune, in the form of injury, has been a constant companion. His collarbone has been broken, his right patellar tendon torn.

Each time he has been on the verge of succeeding, something bad has occurred to set him back — until now, anyway. Knock on wood.

Veland played most of last season at less than full-speed. He has only begun to display his considerable ability, according to his position coach, George Darlington.

Veland could play in the National Football League. He has the skills. "He acts like he's 25 or 30 years old," Darlington said.

His maturity transcends his years. Veland is only 22.

He has aged considerably since arriving at Nebraska from Omaha Benson High School in the fall of 1991. He was among 22 scholarship recruits, seven of whom never played for the Cornhuskers. Had he been less determined, or more easily discouraged, the number of dropouts would have been eight.

Veland was one of three quarterbacks in the 1991 recruiting class. The others were Brook Berringer and Clester Johnson, who has succeeded, at last, as a wingback.

Veland was listed among the recruits as a defensive back/quarterback. Defensive back was first, an indication of where the Cornhusker coaches envisioned him.

"He made a statement in the papers when he came here that he would be open to playing either side of the ball," Darlington said recently.

Scott B. Smith



Veland showed NFL potential at free safety last year, starting the final 10 games, including the national title game against Miami.



"We recruited him as a quarterback and an athlete. He was a fine defensive back in high school."

When Darlington looked at Veland, he saw a player with the size and speed of a defensive back.

"I think Coach Darlington wanted me to play in the secondary when I got here," said Veland.

When Veland finally gave up on playing quarterback, after recovering from the knee injury, and asked to move to the secondary, Darlington described him as a "prototype" NFL safety.

"Although he could do a fine job at quarterback, any thought he has of playing in the future, which is certainly possible, depends on being a defensive back," Darlington said.

Even so, Veland preferred quarterback, which he began playing in high school. "When I was young, I was a wide receiver," he said. "I was going to be the next Jerry Rice. But I gave up becoming another Jerry Rice when I got to high school."

When the coach evaluated the throwing arms of his players, Veland's was among the best. So he became a quarterback as a freshman. Ironically, passing proved to be his weakness as a Cornhusker quarterback.

Veland sat out his first fall at Nebraska as a redshirt, then became the No. 1 quarterback during the spring when Mike Grant was sidelined by a broken collarbone. Veland capped an outstanding spring by directing a 33-21 victory in the Red-White game.

He ran 37 yards for one touchdown and passed for another.

Based on his performance during the spring, Veland went into the fall sharing No. 1 on the depth chart with Grant. Freshman Tommie Frazier was No. 2. Walkon Joel Cornwell was No. 3.

Less than two weeks before the

Collarbone injuries cost Tony Veland (16) his quarterbacking job and a torn patellar tendon almost ended his playing career.

opener against Utah, however, during a controlled scrimmage, Veland suffered a broken collarbone. At the end of a 19-yard run, a teammate fell on him.

By the time Veland was able to play again, Frazier had become the starter. Veland played sparingly in four games as a redshirted freshman.

Still, Veland remained optimistic about his future as a quarterback, telling a newspaper reporter: "It hurt being knocked out of being No. 1. But I was there once, and I can get back there."

He went into the fall of his third year at Nebraska sharing No. 2 on the depth chart with Berringer. He had been hampered during spring practice by an ankle injury. "If I don't get playing time this year, I'll make the switch (to defense)," he said.

When others suggested he switch, however, he resisted. "I never listened," said Veland. "I took it in a negative way, like they didn't think I could succeed at quarterback."

There was a rumor during the



off-season that he was seriously thinking about transferring. He denied it. "People talk," he said.

In the second game of the 1993 season, a 50-27 victory against Texas Tech at Memorial Stadium, he suffered the torn patellar tendon. The injury occurred on an option play during the second quarter. It could have ended his playing career. He was sidelined for the remainder of the season, as well as throughout the spring of 1994.

Veland was asked by a reporter if he felt as if he were jinxed. "I think I am," he said.

Nevertheless, he was determined more than ever to play for Nebraska, somewhere, anywhere.

Immediately after the operation to repair his knee, Veland decided to switch to defense. "It was a spur of the moment decision once I got off the operating table," he said.

Veland missed all of spring practice in 1994 while the knee injury healed. He went into last season at less than full-speed and with no on-the-field experience. Everything he knew was a result of watching others.

Darlington would have held Veland out of the opening game, to give him additional rest, if it had been against a team less formidable than West Virginia. As it was, he couldn't afford to, Darlington said.

The plan was to bring Veland along as a backup. But when Mike Minter suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the Texas Tech game, that plan was scrapped. Veland became the starting free safety.

He started the final 10 games last season, alternating with sophomore Eric Stokes, who was moved to free safety from cornerback. Typically, the two shared time almost equally, according to Darlington.

It took most of the season to become comfortable at his new position, Veland said.

After Frazier was sidelined by blood clots and Berringer had problems with a partially collapsed lung, Veland was among those to whom Tom Osborne looked to shore up quarterback.

Even though he no longer had a quarterback mindset, Veland agreed to take some snaps during practice. He wasn't especially happy about it.

Veland is content in the secondary now. "I barely remember playing quarterback," he said. "I liked the spotlight at quarterback. But everybody has their roles. I'm just happy to be playing." ■

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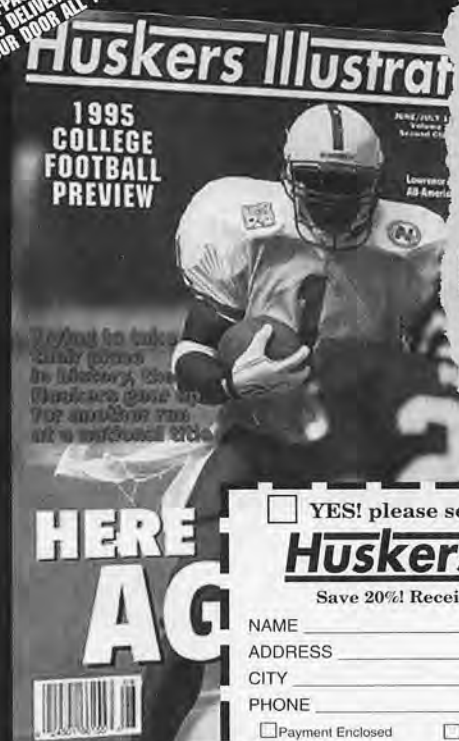
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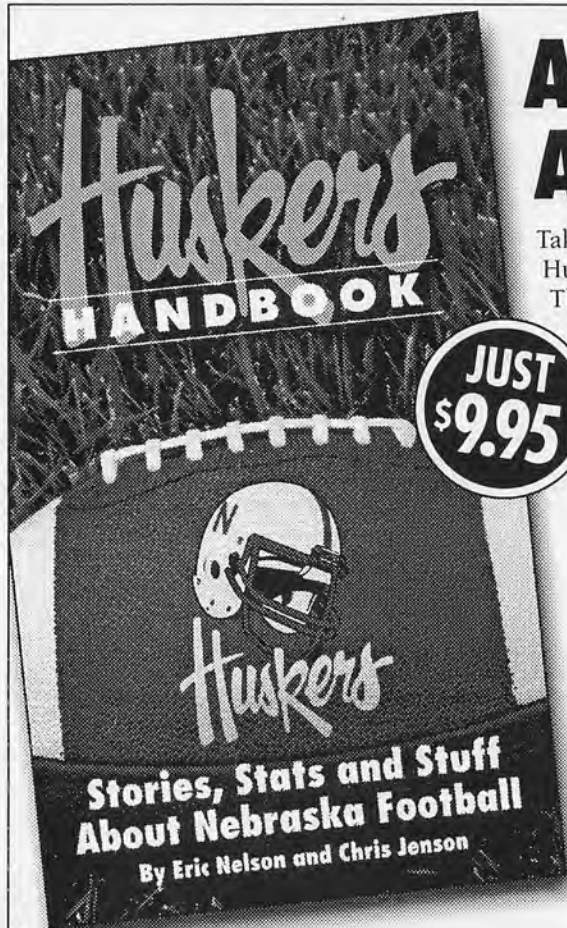
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New Faces Making Their Marks For Buffs

By Mark Derowitsch

When Nebraska heads to Boulder on Saturday for its annual showdown against Colorado, the Huskers won't have to worry about facing a Heisman Trophy winner or one of the best wide receivers in college football.

Or an experienced quarterback. Or a professional-caliber tight end. Or one of the league's top linemen.

In other words, the Buffaloes who line up against the Huskers will be a very different group from last year's team.

Gone are running back Rashaam Salaam, who won the Heisman after rushing for more than 2,000 yards last year; the Big Eight's total offense leader in quarterback Kordell Stewart; the school's all-time leading receiver, Michael Westbrook; tight end Christian Fauria; and defensive tackle Shannon Clavelle.

What's left is a young team eager to prove it belongs among the elite football teams in the nation. And now, the current group of Buffaloes have a chance to do something no Colorado team has done since 1990:

beat Nebraska.

"That's what's neat about college football," Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel said. "The younger players now have a chance to make their mark."

The changes at Colorado aren't just in the personnel. Neuheisel took over the program this fall from Bill McCartney, who retired at the end of last season to spend more time with his family. McCartney took over the Colorado program in 1982 and turned it into one of the premier teams in the country. In 1990, He led the Buffs to the national championship.

Another change is in the defense. Colorado installed a 4-3 defense, the first time the Buffs have lined up in that base formation since 1971.

Neuheisel decided to go with the formation during Colorado's 41-24 win over Notre Dame in

the Fiesta Bowl last year, a contest in which the Buffs recorded seven quarterback sacks.

So far, the defense has worked in that the Buffs have been able to put plenty of heat on their opponents. In



The Colorado offense has slowed since losing Koy Detmer.

PRESS PICKS



• **Mike Babcock**, *Huskies Illustrated*: The Husker and Buffalo defenses won't slow each

other down. The Nebraska defense must handle the speed of the Colorado receivers. The CU defense must contend with the option — without forgetting about the Husker tight ends.

Nebraska 35, Colorado 31.

• **Jim Rose**, *SportsDay Mid America*: The Buff's KU swoon took much of the edge off of this one. No matter, Colorado fans would rather eat rocks than endure another year of standing second in line to the Big Red. In July, this looked like Nebraska's toughest game, and time has not changed a thing.

Nebraska 28, Colorado 24.

• **Kent Pavelka**, *Nebraska Sports Network*: Colorado certainly has the talent to give the Huskers a game. But I'm wondering if CU will be organized enough to make it happen. At times this year, the Buffs have played at a level that would fall short against the likes of Nebraska. I'm guessing they'll put it together for this one, but Nebraska will still prevail.

Nebraska 31, Colorado 17.

• **Doug Looney**, *College football freelance writer*: Two weeks ago, CU whips Nebraska. But unfortunately for the Buffs, the game is played this week, and Nebraska is simply better: **Nebraska 28, Colorado 7.**

• **Chris Fowler**, *ESPN*: Nebraska is still too physical. I like the Buffs' chances with Detmer. But Nebraska wins this game. **Nebraska 27, Colorado 23.**

six games, Colorado recorded 20 sacks, with linebacker Matt Russell leading the way with four. In addition, defensive end Greg Jones has added 3.5 sacks. The other end, Daryl Price, had another 2.5.

The Buffaloes have also been tough against the run, giving up an average of 113.2 yards per game on the ground. One of reasons for the success is the play of Colorado tackles Kerry Hicks and Ryan Olson. Hicks is averaging nearly six tackles a game while Olson averages more than four.

The linebacker group of Russell, Mike Phillips (weak side) and Ron Merkerson (strong side) are solid as well.

Where the Buffs have struggled is in the secondary. Colorado is giving up more than 200 passing yards per game, and Colorado State and Kansas each threw for at least 299 yards against the Buffs.

Cornerback T.J. Cunningham has

just one interception but has broken up 11 other passes this season. Kenny Wilkins has four pass break-ups and his backup, Elton Davis, leads the team with three interceptions.

Free safety Steve Rosga and strong safety Donnell Leomiti are second and third on the team, respectively, in tackles. Both are averaging more than 8.5 per game.

Offensively, the Buffs have been forced to change some during the season. Junior Koy Detmer (who started and lost to Nebraska 52-7 in 1992) injured his knee against Texas A&M and is out for the season. Detmer tried to play in Colorado's loss to Kansas but re-injured the knee and underwent surgery.

Detmer's backup, John Hessler, has done well under fire, though. He relieved Detmer and led the Buffs to a 29-21 victory over Texas A&M, and then captained a come-from-behind victory at Oklahoma.

However, against Kansas, Hessler threw for 340 yards, but the Buffs suffered their only setback of the year in the 40-34 defeat.

Hessler has good numbers. He is completing 57.4 percent of his passes and has thrown for 876 yards in just six games.

He also has three good receivers to throw to in Rae Carruth, James Kidd and Phil Savoy. Savoy, one of the fastest men on the team, leads Colorado with 30 receptions for 408 yards and three touchdowns. Carruth is the big-play man, catching 27 passes and scoring seven times, including on that went 72 yards.



The change to a 4-3 defense has allowed tackle Kerry Hicks to put plenty of heat on offenses.

Tight end Matt Lepsis and tailback Herchell Troutman are also involved in the passing game.

The Buffs have struggled on the ground, though. Troutman leads the team with 451 yards (an average of 71.8 yards per game). Marlon Barnes, his backup, averages another 38.7 yards.

Up front, Colorado is experienced, but has given up 14 sacks this season. Still, center Bryan Stoltenberg and guards Heath Irwin and Chris Naeole provide the line with a solid base. Tackles Melvin Thomas and Clint Moore also start.

The Buffs have an experienced kicker in Neil Voskeritchian. ■

1995 COLORADO FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Overall/Conf.) — 6-1 (2-1)

Sept. 2	@ Wisconsin	W, 43-7
Sept. 9	Colorado St.	W, 42-14
Sept. 16	NE Louisiana	W, 66-14
Sept. 23	Texas A&M	W, 29-21
Sept. 30	@ Oklahoma	W, 38-17
Oct. 7	Kansas	L, 24-40
Oct. 21	@ Iowa St.	W, 50-28
Oct. 28	Nebraska	
Nov. 4	@ Oklahoma St.	
Nov. 11	@ Kansas	
Nov. 18	Iowa St.	

COLORADO VS. NEBRASKA TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	Sr
	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Jr
LT	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	285	Jr
LG	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	So
	68	Steve Volin	6-2	290	Sr
C	54	Aaron Graham	6-4	285	Sr
	53	Matt Vrzal	6-1	300	Jr
RG	69	Steve Ott	6-4	290	Sr
	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	280	So
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	So
	77	Adam Treu	6-6	295	Jr
TE	87	Mark Gilman	6-4	240	Sr
	90	Tim Carpenter	6-2	240	So
QB	15	Tommie Frazier	6-2	210	Sr
	18	Brook Berringer	6-4	220	Sr
FB	22	Jeff Makovicka	5-11	225	Sr
	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Jr
IB	21	Damon Benning	5-11	205	Jr
	26	Clinton Childs	6-0	215	Sr
WB	33	Clester Johnson	5-11	210	Sr
	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	200	Jr
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-11	190	Fr

BUFFALO DEFENSE

DE	59	Greg Jones	6-4	240	Jr
	48	Terrell Cade	6-4	220	Fr
NT	55	Ryan Olson	6-2	255	So
	77	Viliami Maumau	6-2	280	So
DT	94	Kerry Hicks	6-6	270	Sr
	90	Aaron Marshall	6-4	240	Fr
DE	95	Daryl Price	6-5	255	Sr
	76	Nick Ziegler	6-5	235	Fr
WLB91		Mike Phillips	6-4	215	So
	23	Allen Wilbon	6-0	220	So
MLB16		Matt Russell	6-2	240	Jr
	54	Jeff Nabholz	6-5	235	Jr
SLB33		Ron Merkerson	6-3	240	So
	46	Brandon Southward	6-4	220	Fr
LC	20	Kenny Wilkins	6-3	210	Jr
	4	Elton Davis	5-9	175	So
SS	3	Donnell Leomiti	6-0	210	So
	6	Ryan Black	5-10	180	So
FS	15	Steve Rosga	6-1	210	Jr
	37	Marcus Washington	6-2	210	Fr
RC	8	T.J. Cunningham	6-0	195	Sr
	20	Kenny Wilkins	6-3	210	Jr
P	28	Andy Mitchell	6-3	190	So

BUFFALO OFFENSE

WR	80	Phil Savoy	6-3	200	So
	83	James Davis	5-11	175	Fr
LT	66	Clint Moore	6-3	290	Sr
	52	Kyle Smith	6-6	285	Jr
LG	63	Heath Irwin	6-5	285	Sr
	69	Chan Moody	6-5	265	Fr
C	64	Bryan Stoltenberg	6-2	280	Sr
	74	Andrew Welsh	6-6	265	So
RG	65	Chris Naeole	6-4	295	Jr
	52	Kyle Smith	6-6	285	Jr
RT	78	Melvin Thomas	6-3	285	So
	79	Matt Jones	6-5	285	Jr
TE	88	Matt Lepsis	6-5	265	Jr
	41	Tennyson McCarty	6-3	240	So
QB	7	John Hessler	6-2	195	So
	17	Robert Toler	6-2	190	Fr
TB	5	Herchell Troutman	5-7	180	So
	9	Marlon Barnes	5-11	195	So
WR	21	Rae Carruth	5-11	190	Jr
	6	Darrin Chiaverini	6-2	190	Fr
WR	2	James Kidd	5-8	160	Jr
	18	Chris Anderson	6-4	220	So
PK	17	Neil Voskeritchian	5-9	160	Sr

HUSKER DEFENSE

OLB	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	250	Jr
	58	Luther Hardin	6-2	245	Sr
DT	55	Christian Peter	6-3	300	Sr
	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	310	Jr
DT	95	Jason Peter	6-4	275	So
	96	Jason Jenkins	6-5	280	Sr
OLB98		Grant Wistrom	6-5	240	So
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	Fr
SLB56		Jay Foreman	6-1	220	Fr
	28#	Jamel Williams	6-2	200	Jr
MLB41		Phil Ellis	6-2	225	Sr
	46	Doug Colman	6-3	245	Sr
WLB91		Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Jr
	43	Terrell Farley	6-0	200	Jr
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	190	Jr
	12	Mike Fullman	5-7	160	Jr
ROV10		Mike Minter	5-10	190	Jr
	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	190	So
FS	9	Tony Veland	6-2	205	Sr
	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	180	Jr
RC	8	Tyrone Williams	6-0	185	Sr
	2	Leslie Dennis	5-8	165	So
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	180	So

Depth charts were compiled Oct. 22, 1995 # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

KEY MATCHUPS

Nebraska vs. Colorado

Nebraska's running game vs. Colorado's defensive front

To beat Nebraska, all a team has to do is stop the run — the I-back and the options by quarterback Tommie Frazier. That's easier said than done. Missouri held the Huskers to only 342 yards on the ground, 124 less than their season average.

Nebraska can beat a team three ways, with I-backs Ahman Green, Damon Benning or Clinton Childs, with quick pops to fullback Jeff Makovicka and with the option and scrambling abilities of Frazier.

Green, a true freshman, is 28th in the nation in rushing, averaging 105 yards per game. Not bad for a guy who was fourth string heading into the season-opener against Oklahoma State.

Colorado's front four of tackles Ryan Olson and Kerry Hicks and ends Greg Jones and Daryl Price will give the Huskers a tough test, though. The Buffs are giving up just 113 yards on the ground per game.

Linebackers Matt Russell, Ron Merkerson and Mike Phillips also play a big role against the run. **Advantage: Nebraska**

Nebraska's passing game vs. Colorado's secondary/pass rush

This is what won the game for the Huskers last year. Brook Berringer completed 12-of-17 passes for 142 yards and a touchdown. The Huskers didn't pass often, but they were effective when they did.

Colorado has struggled some against teams that like to put the ball in the air. Colorado State passed for 305 yards and Kansas threw for 299, and the Buffaloes were 1-1 in those contests.

The secondary is experienced, though. Cornerback Elton Davis, who shares time with Kenny Wilkins at the left position, leads the team with three interceptions. T.J. Cunningham, who plays right cornerback, and free safety Steve Rosga also have one interception apiece.

Frazier will have to be sharp to take some pressure off the Huskers' ground game. Through six games, the senior completed 52.2 percent of his passes for 641 yards, seven touchdowns and just two interceptions.

More important, the Huskers' offensive line has allowed just one sack this year, and Frazier hasn't been brought down on a passing play yet. **Advantage: Push**

Nebraska's secondary/pass rush vs. Colorado's passing game

Even without quarterback Koy Detmer, the Buffaloes are dangerous when the ball is in the air. That's because back-up quarterback John Hessler has filled in well. Hessler has completed 57.4 percent of his passes for 876 yards, nine touchdowns and one interception.

Hessler has three speedy receivers to work with in Phil Savoy, Rae Carruth and James Kidd. Savoy leads in the team with 30 receptions while Carruth has 27 and Kidd 12.

What's more, Colorado has plenty of long-ball threats. Six Colorado receivers have made a catch going for at least 44 yards.

The Huskers are giving up 203 yards passing per game this year but have picked off nine passes. Cornerbacks Tyrone Williams and Michael Booker, along with safeties Mike Minter and Tony Veland, will see the best passing attack in the Big Eight in Colorado.

The key could be how much pressure the Huskers put on Hessler, who has been sacked eight times in six games. Nebraska recorded 15 sacks in its first six games, with much of the pressure coming from outside linebackers Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom as well as tackles Christian and Jason Peter. **Advantage: Nebraska**

Nebraska's defensive front vs. Colorado's running game

It's obvious the Buffs don't put as much emphasis in their ground attack as they did with Rashaan Salaam, who won the Heisman last year after becoming just the fourth back in NCAA history to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season.

This year, the Buffs' leading rusher is Herchell Troutman, who is averaging 71.8 yards per game and 4.8 per attempt. He isn't the only one who can run it, though. His backup, Marlon Barnes, is averaging 38.7 yards per game.

Hessler is not much of a running threat. He has rushed for just 44 yards in six games and has been sacked eight times.

Nebraska has been downright nasty against the run, as its opponents have averaged just 89 yards per game on the ground. **Advantage: Nebraska**

Nebraska's special teams vs. Colorado's special teams

The Buffaloes enter the game with a more experienced tandem of kicker Neil Voskeritchian and punter Andy Mitchell.

Voskeritchian, a senior, has made 8-of-10 field goal attempts this year (including 2-of-2 from more than 40 yards) and is perfect in all 27 of his point-after tries. Mitchell averages 42.2 yards per punt and has a long of 73.

The Huskers' Kris Brown, a true freshman, was 6-of-8 on his field goal tries and 32-of-34 for PATs through the Missouri game. Husker punter Jesse Kosch was averaging about 39 yards per attempt, but the Huskers have only been forced to punt 16 times in six games.

Kick returns could decide the game, and the Buffs enter with a slight edge, based on the Huskers' injury situation.

For Colorado, Lendon Henry is averaging 40.3 yards per kickoff return, while Troutman is gaining 21 yards every time he returns a kickoff. The Buffs' top punt returner is Rosga, who is averaging 12 yards per return.

The Huskers haven't been able to get into a rhythm in their return game this fall. Childs is their top kickoff returner, averaging nearly 30 yards per attempt, but he's been plagued with injuries. The Huskers' top punt returner, Kenny Cheatham, missed the Missouri game because of an injury. He leads the team with a 12.8 average. **Advantage: Colorado**



Ahman GREEN



Greg JONES



Tommie FRAZIER



Steve ROSGA



Tyrone WILLIAMS



Rae CARRUTH



Jason PETER



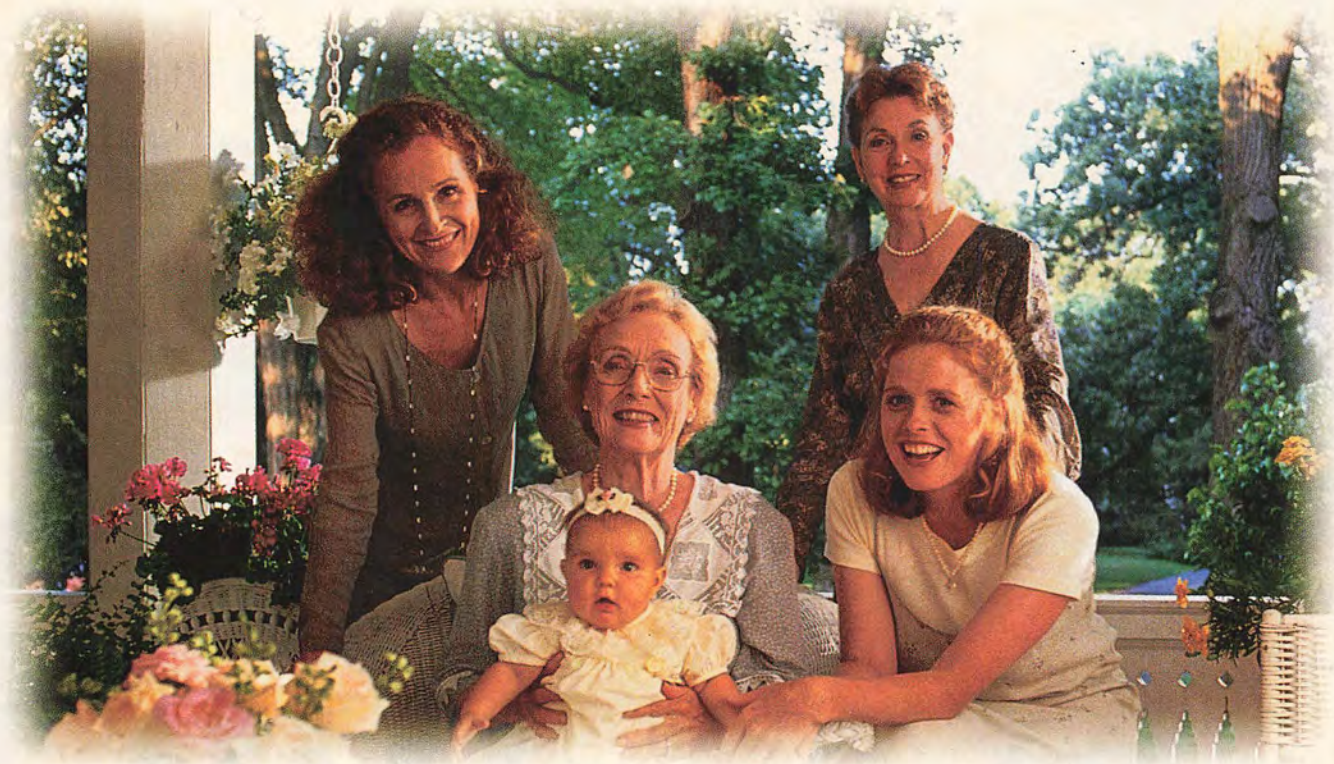
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MIR MIR

Nebraska trailed UCLA 10-0 early in the second quarter of a game at Memorial Stadium in late September of 1983. It was the first time in four games that the No. 1-ranked Cornhuskers fell behind. The week before they beat Minnesota, 84-13.

By halftime, Nebraska had a 14-10 lead. But it wasn't until the third quarter that the "Scoring Explosion" offense exploded.

The Cornhuskers scored 28 second-half points for a 42-10 victory. The explosion was touched off by Nebraska linebacker Mike Knox, who sacked the UCLA quarterback and forced a fumble, which the Cornhuskers recovered at the UCLA 32-yard line. Just seven plays later, the score was 21-10.

And so it went. The remainder of the game was more of the same.

UCLA's starting quarterback that afternoon was a senior from Tempe, Ariz., who originally had joined the Bruins as a walk-on. He began his collegiate career as a specialist, a holder for place-kicker John Lee.

The quarterback, of course, was Rick Neuheisel, currently the first-year head coach at Colorado.

Neuheisel's recollections of that afternoon in 1983 aren't particularly pleasant. "I was one of the few Bruins still standing at the end," he has said, adding: "That's because they (the UCLA coaches) took me out in the third quarter."

Much like **Tom Osborne** once did, first-year coach **Colorado Rick**

ROR ROR

His replacement was Steve Bono, who is now the starting quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs.

The victory was No. 100 for Nebraska coach Tom Osborne. It was a low point in Neuheisel's final collegiate season, which ended with his being chosen as the most valuable player in UCLA's 45-9 victory over Illinois in the 1984 Rose Bowl.

Barely 10 years have passed since Neuheisel tried to beat Nebraska as a player. Now, he'll try to do it as a coach, the second-youngest (by four days) in NCAA Division I-A. Only Ron Cooper of Louisville is younger.

Both are 34 years old, though Neuheisel looks much younger. "I still get carded," he says.

That's not much of an exaggeration, actually. It doesn't take any imagination to think he could be mistaken for the players he coaches.

Neuheisel can still pass about as well as his young quarterbacks.

His concern isn't retaining the athletic skills that enabled him to play two sea-



Neuheisel has taken over a national contender and kept it rolling

sons for the San Antonio Gunslingers of the short-lived United States Football League and part of another season in the NFL (with San Diego and Tampa Bay). Rather, it is proving that despite his youth he can keep the Colorado football program among the nation's elite.

Neuheisel is in much the same situation as Osborne experienced when he succeeded Bob Devaney as head coach in 1973. Osborne was 34 years old when Devaney picked him as a successor. He was 36 by the time he coached his first game, however, because Devaney decided to remain one more season in hopes of winning an unprecedented third consecutive national title.

Osborne had coached wide receivers and quarterbacks for Devaney. Neuheisel coached those positions under his predecessor, Bill McCartney, who resigned last November after 13 seasons with the

Buffaloes.

Looking back, Osborne has said, he would have preferred to start out as a head coach of a program that he could develop rather than one he

with a great season, and a bunch of great athletes left with him. I don't know what the expectations are (among the fans). Mine are high enough."

The expectations certainly didn't include losing quarterback Koy Detmer to a knee injury, nor did they include losing to Kansas in Boulder three weeks ago. But Neuheisel has proven during his 34 years that he is nothing if not resilient.

Had he been less determined, Neuheisel would never have played quarterback at the major college level. At 6-foot-1 and 165 pounds, what little recruiting interest he attracted following high school came mostly from the Ivy League. He almost enrolled at Princeton.

But "I kept thinking I was something more," he said.

After first being rejected by UCLA coach Terry Donahue as a walkon, Neuheisel was given a chance based on his assertion that he had experience holding for placekicks. He did not.

Even after being allowed to walk on, Neuheisel wasn't satisfied.

"Pressure is not having a job. This is a fantastic opportunity. If it (coaching) doesn't work out, at least I had a chance."

— Rick Neuheisel

maintained, as he did following Devaney, a Hall of Fame coach. He was considered a "caretaker" early on, he said.

"There's certainly some wisdom in what Tom has said. You could develop with the program or despite of the program," Neuheisel said before his first spring practice as head coach. "But I'm where I want to be.

"Bill McCartney deserves the accolades. I'm not replacing him by anyone's choice but his own. He left

Rick Neuheisel hopes to fare better against Nebraska as a head coach than he did as a UCLA quarterback in 1983.



"Like any other kid, I was impatient. I wanted to play, now," he said. "I was constantly calling home, telling my parents they (the coaches) didn't understand what a gem they had.

"My parents told me: 'You're going to stay and be patient.' When opportunity and preparation meet, you have good luck." He stayed at UCLA. He was reasonably patient. Opportunity and preparation met. And his luck was good.

Neuheisel's coaching career followed a similar pattern. After the USFL, he enrolled in law school at USC. The next summer, he became a volunteer assistant at UCLA. His primary responsibility was coaching quarterback Troy Aikman, who had transferred from Oklahoma.

After a brief stint in the NFL, Neuheisel returned to UCLA as a full-time assistant in charge of the Bruin quarterbacks. He did that for two years, then coached receivers.

He also completed his law degree, and passed the bar exams in Arizona and Washington, D.C. His father and a sister are both lawyers.

But "I have never not enjoyed being on the field," Neuheisel said. "My dad told me the law career, that will always be there. Besides, there are enough lawyers. He didn't need the competition. My dad is kind of a Marcus Welby of the legal profession."

In addition, college football has a special appeal for Neuheisel. "It's a rush," he said.

Neuheisel has a special appreciation for the game, which gives him the necessary insight to coach. "One of the things I mentioned in the interview process was, there's not a kid on the team who has been through something I haven't," he said. "I know how kids feel.

"I walked on. I've wanted to quit and go home. I've been fifth-string, and a guy with no number. I've been a guy who was excited about getting his own locker. I've been on the bench. I've been the starting quarterback who gets put on shoulders and carried off (the field). I've been the starter and then been benched."

The last sentence describes Neuheisel's situation in Lincoln on that late-September afternoon in 1983. On balance, however, that was the exception rather than the rule.

Neuheisel is no stranger to pressure. "Pressure is not having a job," he said. "This is a fantastic opportunity. If it doesn't work out, at least I had a chance." ■



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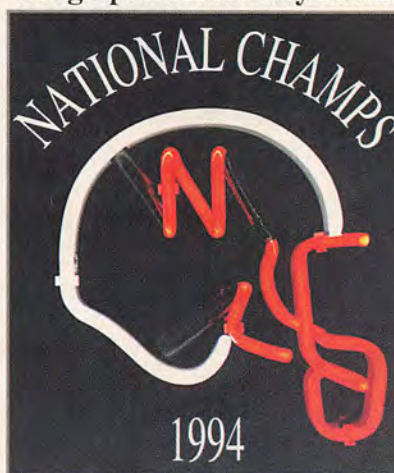
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First-Half Scoring Barrage Dooms Wildcats In 49-25 Loss

Mike Fullman shifted the focus away from himself. "I give all the credit to the guys who were blocking," he said of his 79-yard punt return for a touchdown in Nebraska's 49-25 victory over Kansas State on Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

"Really, all I saw was a bunch of red jerseys knocking out a lot of white jerseys," he said. "The wall was set up. The rest was history."

Fullman, a transfer from Rutgers who backs up Michael Booker at left cornerback, was being modest, of course. There was more to the runback than that. But he did need help, which he got from a number of blocks.

By MIKE BABCOCK

The most dramatic was thrown by Mike Rucker, a redshirt freshman outside linebacker. Rucker hit Kansas State cornerback Joe Gordon with such force that Gordon's helmet came off. The block was acknowledged on an ESPN sports report a few hours later, and it was certain to be included in national highlights of Saturday's games.

"That's my job," said the 6-foot-5, 240-pound Rucker. "I try to put 'em out. I think he (Gordon) was about to catch Mike. He didn't see it coming."

Rucker nearly lost a contact lens at the moment of impact. He blinked to keep the lens in his eye. "I saw this blur and then a helmet coming off," he said. "For a split second, I didn't know what happened."

Rucker's description could be used more generally to summarize Nebraska's seventh consecutive victory, against a Kansas State team that came to Lincoln undefeated and untied. What happened to the No. 8-ranked Wildcats was unexpected. Like Gordon, they never saw what hit them until too late.

They were blindsided by a 35-point first half that began with Fullman's punt return, Nebraska's first for a touchdown since a 64-yarder by Morgan Gregory against Kansas on Oct. 8, 1988. "Right before the game, the coaches told us we had to make a big play on special teams," said Fullman, whose opportunity to return punts was a result of redshirt freshman Kenny Cheatham's being sidelined by an injury.

Fullman took the coaches at their word and took matters into his own hands. He high-stepped the final few yards to the end zone, a celebration deemed excessive by the officials. The resulting 15-yard penalty was enforced on the kickoff, which, in

The Wildcats were never able to emotionally recover after Mike Fullman (12) electrified the stadium with a 79-yard punt return for a score less than five minutes into the game.



Missouri game photos by Bob Berry



turn, translated into sufficiently good field position for Kansas State to counter with a touchdown of its own.

But the flicker of hope represented by an 18-yard scoring pass from Matt Miller to Kevin Lockett was quickly extinguished. First, Martin Gramatica's extra-point attempt sailed wide left. Then Jon Vedral fell on a Clinton Childs fumble in the end zone for the Cornhuskers' second touchdown, two seconds before the end of the first quarter.

"There were some strange things happening," said Vedral, a junior wingback from Gregory, S.D. "That's scary, sometimes."

Strange things, indeed. Nebraska, which went into the game leading the nation in rushing offense, didn't score a rushing touchdown against the Wildcats, who led the nation in

scoring defense before Saturday. Childs fumbled the ball before he crossed the goal line. Officially, that wasn't a rushing touchdown. Tommie Frazier tied a school record by throwing four touchdown passes. And Luther Hardin contributed a 3-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Hardin's return qualified as one of Vedral's "strange things." Miller attempted a shovel pass near his own end zone, and Cornhusker freshman Chad Kelsay deflected the ball into Hardin's hands. "Everything was going away from me," Hardin said. "I was trying to make the play from the backside."

He made the play, all right. But in a different way than he expected. "I'm still speechless. It's hard to believe I actually scored. I put points on the board," said Hardin, a senior.

Nebraska put points on the board like no other team has against

Kansas State. Going into the game, the Wildcats had allowed only 45 points, total. Nebraska exceeded that by four, and it probably could have been more. But the Cornhuskers tailed off after building a 35-6 half-

Everything seemed to be going the Huskers' way early as even Clinton Childs' fumble near the end zone was recovered for a score by wingback John Vedral.





In his first start, linebacker Terrell Farley became KSU's greatest nemesis, racking up nine tackles and two sacks.

time lead.

They increased the lead to 42-6 at the end of three quarters as coach Tom Osborne began to substitute. However, "we probably backed off a little too early," Osborne said. "I guess it's really nice to be able to play a football team and take your first team out. But there was probably too much time left on the clock when we started substituting."

Kansas State's offense, which was short-circuited by Nebraska's No. 1 defense, improved significantly as Osborne began to replace his seniors.

The Wildcats' 19 fourth-quarter points not only distorted the final score but also forced Osborne to send top-unit players back into the game.

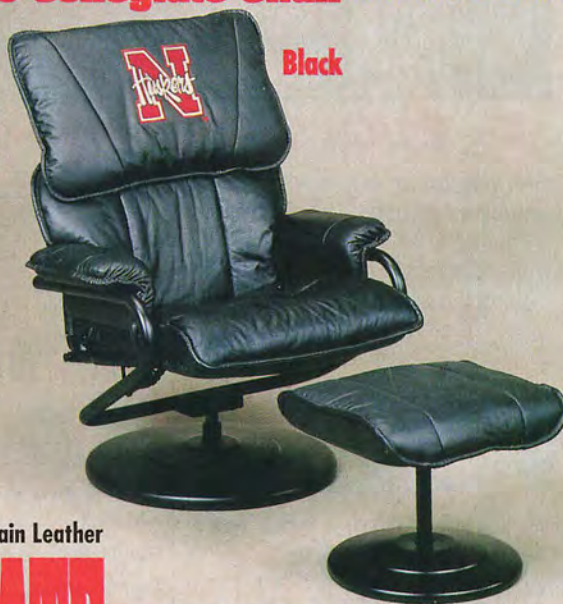
Frazier said he really didn't want to return but thought it was his duty after Kansas State had reduced the deficit to 17 points. He directed a seven-play, 44-yard drive to the game's final touchdown, a 12-yard

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play that began with a shovel pass to Ahman Green, the Cornhuskers' freshman I-back.

"I wanted to put it in one more time," said Green, who took another shovel pass from Frazier and ran 10 yards for a touchdown late in the first half.

Frazier's other touchdown passes were to Vedral, a 32-yard play, and to tight end Sheldon Jackson, an 11-yard play. Jackson, a redshirt freshman from Diamond Bar, Calif., also caught a touchdown pass in Nebraska's 57-0 victory over Missouri.

Vedral was wide open near the Kansas State 5-yard line when the ball arrived for his touchdown. "I think they bit on the play-action a little too hard," Vedral said.

Frazier was 10-of-16 passing for 148 yards. "I saw improvement in our passing," he said.

Nebraska finished with a season-low 338 yards of offense, including only 190 rushing. The majority of rushing yards belonged to Green, who started for the second time in as many weeks. He gained 109 yards on 22 carries.

The low totals were, in part, a

reflection of Kansas State's defensive ability. The Wildcats were ranked No. 1 nationally in total defense. But the totals also might have been a little misleading, according to Osborne.

"Our offense didn't have the ball very much," he said. Nebraska had 63 snaps.

The Cornhuskers' defensive statistics were distorted, too, particularly by the fourth quarter. In addition to scoring 19 points, Kansas State picked up eight first downs and doubled its offensive yardage. The Wildcats had 128 yards going into the final quarter. They finished with 256 yards.

"We know now we can't let up at all," said outside linebacker Jared Tomich. "We gave up too many points. Every game, we're trying to get that zero."

On balance, however, Nebraska played well defensively, according to Osborne. "We showed some sign of growth there," he said.

That was particularly true in the pressure that the Cornhuskers applied to Kansas State's quarterbacks, Miller and Brian Kavanaugh. They were sacked nine times for 82 yards in losses. As a result, the Wildcats finished with a rushing net of minus-19 yards on 26 carries.

Junior Terrell Farley, a transfer from Independence (Kan.) Community College, was Kansas State's greatest nemesis. Farley started for the first time at Nebraska and responded with nine tackles, six of them unassisted. He had two sacks for 22 yards in losses. Tomich, Grant Wistrom and Doug Colman also had two sacks apiece. Rucker had the other.

Miller, who was the victim of seven of the sacks, contributed to his own problems by standing in the pocket too long. "That's what we live for," said Tomich, a junior from St. John, Ind.

Nebraska's defense "did an excellent job of getting pressure," Osborne said. "Their quarterback got hit a lot. That had to be a little bit unnerving."

The same could be said of Fullman's punt return, and, of course, Rucker's block. "Three guys were trapping me on the sideline," Fullman said. "I don't know how I got out of it, but I did."

He just needed a little help from his friends.

That's how Hardin got his touchdown, with help from Kelsay. "My good friend Kelsay," Hardin said. ■

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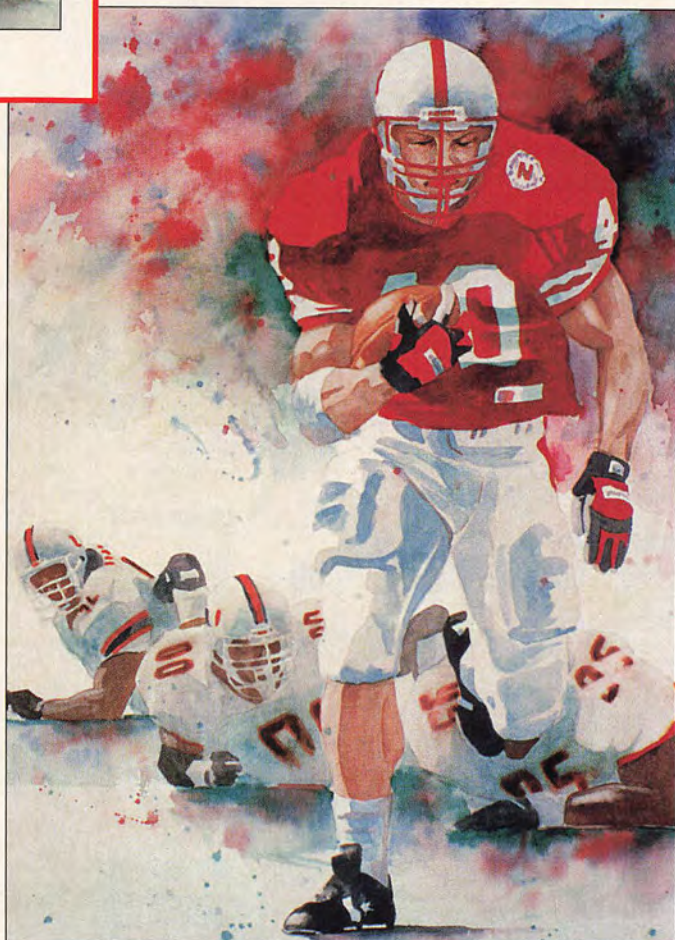
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SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	14	21	7	7	— 49
KANSAS STATE	6	0	0	19	— 25

TEAM STATS

	KSU	NU
First Downs	17	19
Rushing	3	10
Passing	13	7
Penalty	1	2
Rushing Attempts	26	46
Yards Gained Rushing	67	198
Yards Lost Rushing	86	8
Net yards rushing	-19	190
Net yards passing	275	148
Passes attempted	47	17
Passes completed	24	10
Had intercepted	2	0
Total plays	73	63
Total net yards	256	338
Avg. gain per play	3.5	5.4
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	14-113	7-64
Punts-yards	6-266	4-91
Avg. per punt	44.3	22.8
Possession time	29:07	30:53

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA						
Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.	
Farley, T.	6	3	9	2	0	
Wistrom, G.	5	0	5	2	0	
Colman, D.	2	2	4	2	0	
Booker, M.	4	0	4	0	1	
Tomich, J.	3	0	3	2	0	
Peter, C.	1	2	3	0	0	
Minter, M.	2	1	3	0	0	
McFarlin, O.	2	1	3	0	0	
Williams, J.	1	2	3	0	0	
Hardin, L.	2	0	2	0	1	
Peter, J.	0	2	2	0	0	
Hesse, J.	2	0	2	0	0	
Dennis, L.	2	0	2	0	0	
Kelsay, C.	1	0	1	0	0	
Warfield, E.	1	0	1	0	0	
Rucker, M.	1	0	1	1	0	
KANSAS STATE						
Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.	
Smith, M.	1	9	10	0	0	
Marlowe, C.	4	6	10	0	0	
Ochs, T.	5	4	9	0	0	
Colston, T.	3	3	6	0	0	

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Green, A.	22	109	5.0	33	0
Frazier, T.	6	36	6.0	15	3
Makovicka, Jeff	6	21	3.5	21	0
Schuster, B.	2	10	5.0	10	0
Childs, C.	4	9	2.3	3	0
Sims, J.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Benning, D.	5	2	0.4	4	0
Vedral, J.	0	0	0	0	1

KANSAS STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Hickson, E.	6	27	4.5	11	0
Lawrence, M.	6	15	2.5	16	0
Kavanagh, B.	2	-22	-11.0	0	0

PASSING NEBRASKA

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Frazier, T.	16-10-0	148	4
Turman, M.	1-0-0	0	0

KANSAS STATE

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Miller, M.	24-10-2	109	1
Kavanagh, B.	21-12-0	136	2
Garcia, J.	2-2-0	30	0

RECEIVING NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Green, A.	3	41	13.6	19	2
Jackson, S.	2	18	9.0	11	1
Vedral, J.	1	32	32.0	32	1
Benning, D.	1	23	23.0	23	0
Johnson, C.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Gilman, M.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Washington, R.	1	11	11.0	11	0

KANSAS STATE

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Running, M.	10	110	11.0	22	1
Schwieger, T.	4	58	14.5	30	0
Lockett, K.	4	54	13.5	18	2
Lawrence, M.	3	1	0.3	4	0

PUNT/KICKOFF RETURNS NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Lng	TD
Fullman, M.	3	90	79	1
Vedral, J.	1	2	2	0
Childs, C.	3	56	23	0

KANSAS STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Lng	TD
Lawrence, M.	1	51	51	0
Dean, J.	2	40	30	0

1995 SEASON STATS

(7 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	7	88	724	103.4	8
Frazier, T.	7	56	368	52.6	9
Phillips, L.	2	34	359	179.5	7
Benning, D.	5	51	337	67.4	4
Makovicka, Jeff	7	41	268	38.3	1
Childs, C.	4	30	257	64.3	2
Sims, J.	7	25	245	35.0	3
Schuster, B.	7	19	164	23.4	0
Makovicka, Joel	7	14	94	13.4	0
Berringer, B.	5	13	55	11.0	0
Turman, M.	7	13	35	5.0	1

PASSING

Name	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frazier, T.	7	85-46-2	.541	789	11
Berringer, B.	5	43-22-0	.511	210	0
Turman, M.	7	12-4-2	.300	73	1

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Johnson, C.	7	12	212	17.6	30.3	1
Baul, R.	7	7	206	22.9	29.4	1
Gilman, M.	7	12	186	15.5	26.6	1
Vedral, J.	7	8	159	19.9	22.7	3
Holbein, B.	7	9	92	10.2	13.1	1
Jackson, S.	6	4	39	9.8	6.5	2
Cheatham, K.	5	4	31	7.8	6.2	0
Washington, R.	3	3	24	8.0	8.0	0
Childs, C.	4	2	19	9.5	4.8	0
Phillips, L.	2	1	7	7.0	3.5	0
Lake, J.	3	1	7	7.0	2.3	0

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Farley, T.	7	19	15	34	2	5
Terwilliger, R.	7	17	13	30	0	0
Minter, M.	7	18	11	29	1	0
Colman, D.	7	14	15	29	0	2
Peter, C.	7	8	20	28	0	1
Hesse, J.	7	13	13	26	0	0
Wistrom, G.	7	12	12	24	0	3
Ellis, P.	4	9	11	20	0	2
Foreman, J.	7	6	13	19	0	0
Booker, M.	7	15	4	19	2	0
Veland, T.	7	9	9	18	1	0
Tomich, J.	7	12	5	17	0	6
Williams, J.	7	9	7	16	0	1
Kelsay, C.	7	9	5	14	0	2
Penland, A.	7	5	9	14	0	0
McFarlin, O.	7	8	6	14	0	0
Peter, J.	7	4	10	14	0	0
Williams, T.	7	11	2	13	0	0
Saltsman, S.	6	5	8	13	0	1
Stokes, E.	7	6	6	12	0	0
Warfield, E.	7	4	6	10	0	0
Rucker, M.	6	3	7	10	0	1
Fullman, M.	7	8	1	9	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards			4,094	2,003	
Net Rushing Yards			2,988	512	
Passing Yards			1,106	1,491	
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	93	144	81	63	381
Opponents	27	21	24	40	112

1995 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 7-0 (3-0)

Aug. 31	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 64-21
Sept. 9	@ Michigan St.	W, 50-10
Sept. 16	Arizona St.	W, 77-28
Sept. 23	Pacific	W, 49-7
Sept. 30	Washington St.	W, 35-21
Oct. 14	Missouri	W, 57-0
Oct. 21	Kansas St.	W, 49-25
Oct. 28	@ Colorado	
Nov. 4	Iowa St.	
Nov. 11	@ Kansas	
Nov. 25	Oklahoma	

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End Zone Jones

Keith Jones was an electrifying back for the Huskers, scoring a touchdown on every 12th carry and shattering the school record for fastest 40-yard dash

Editor's Note — This is the eighth of an 11-part series featuring the best Nebraska running backs of the modern era. Next week we'll profile Ken Clark.

H

is nickname was "End Zone," or simply "E.Z." He requested, and was given, jersey No. 6 — six as in six points, a touchdown.

He scored a touchdown, on the average, about every 12th time he touched the ball during his four-year career. He rushed for 32 of his 33 touchdowns. Only two other Cornhuskers have rushed for more touchdowns: Mike Rozier and Calvin Jones.

He wore red socks, red wristbands, a red bandanna around his neck and a red headband under his helmet. The bandanna and the headband reminded him of a summer of hard work in the weight room.

He ran the 40-yard dash in 4.33 seconds as a sophomore, faster than any Nebraska football player, ever.

His name was Keith Jones, whom you can find listed at No. 6 among the Cornhuskers' career rushers.

His rushing total of 1,232 yards as a senior in 1987 ranks eighth on Nebraska's modern single-season rushing list. He reached that total in 10 games — two of which produced only 14 combined carries.

Jones' statistics were exceptional. But they could have been even better. "Keith probably improved as much as any back we've ever had from the time he came here until now," coach Tom Osborne said near the end of Jones' final season. He was just beginning to run as he could.

Jones finished with a flourish, rushing for 584 yards in the final three games of the 1987 season. During that remarkable stretch, he averaged more than 10 yards per carry.

The second game of his senior season was something of a turning point for Jones, who carried only six times for 18 yards in a 42-33 victory over UCLA at Memorial Stadium. Nebraska was ranked No. 2 by The Associated Press. UCLA, led by Heisman Trophy candidate Gaston

top 10 Running Backs In The Modern Era

Bobby Reynolds1950-52
Harry Wilson1964-66
Jeff Kinney1969-71
I.M. Hipp1977-79
Jarvis Redwine1979-80
Mike Rozier1981-83
Keith Jones1984-87
Ken Clark1987-89
Derek Brown1990-92
Calvin Jones1991-93

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Green, was ranked No. 3.

A national television audience watched the game on the ESPN cable network. Jones watched most of it from the Cornhusker sideline after two of his six carries ended in fumbles that the Bruins recovered.

Later in the season, Jones reflected on that game. "I had tried to be something I wasn't, and suddenly I wasn't the No. 1 I-back," he said. "Things looked pretty bad."

What he had tried to be was a Heisman Trophy candidate, like Green, instead of being himself. He approached the game as a personal matchup rather than concentrating on his team.

That team reached the top spot in the AP poll in late November, by the way, before a 17-7 loss to No. 2 Oklahoma at Memorial Stadium. The game didn't live up to its billing as the "Game of the Century II."

Nebraska wouldn't make another serious run at winning the national championship until 1993.

Jones never redshirted, a much-discussed possibility early in his Cornhusker career. If he had sat out a season, his accomplishments, no doubt, would have been even greater.

Jones, who followed in the notable steps of Gale Sayers and Joe Orduna at Omaha Central High School, knew he would need time to adjust to college football. That contributed to his decision to accept a scholarship from Nebraska, in fact.

The recruiting battle came down to Nebraska and Washington. Huskies coach Don James even made a follow-up visit to Omaha around letter-of-intent signing day after Jones' three-day recruiting trip to Seattle.

Jones was considered a difference-maker after breaking Sayers' rushing records at Central. He set a modern Metro Conference record by rushing for 1,710 yards as a senior.

Jones rushed for 309 yards against Millard South, 238 against Creighton Prep and 219 against Omaha Gross. He scored 18 touchdowns.

James tried to sell him on Washington by offering him a chance to play immediately. Such an approach would have appealed to most running backs of Jones' caliber.

But he preferred to ease into a program. He had no illusions of being prepared for significant playing time his first year in college.

In addition, his older brother, Lee, was a Cornhusker defensive tackle.

He said Lee's presence at Nebraska wasn't a significant factor in his decision.

But the two brothers, who had never been football teammates (Lee went to Omaha Benson High) until then, became inseparable as Cornhuskers.

They roomed together, lifted weights together, studied together, watched television together and, at Lee's instigation, bowled together. Lee, a defensive tackle, carried the nickname "Killer," as in "Killer Jones." But he was too gregarious for such a murderous appellation. Everyone enjoyed his sense of humor.

Jones tested well as a true freshman. He ran a 4.50 40-yard dash, the second-fastest in Nebraska football history, at the time, behind only Irving Fryar's 4.43.

But the Cornhuskers were coming off their national championship near-miss season in 1983, and they appeared to be set at I-back, with Jeff Smith, Doug DuBose and Paul Miles. So Jones settled in for what he thought would be a period of adjustment.

Nebraska was voted No. 1 in the AP poll after a 42-7, season-opening victory over Wyoming and remained there for three weeks. A 17-9 loss at Syracuse temporarily dampened Nebraska's great expectations.

The Cornhuskers worked their way back to No. 1 by season's end, only to lose to fourth-ranked Oklahoma's "Sooner Magic" 17-7 at Memorial Stadium in the final game of a frustrating regular season.

Jones played sparingly as a freshman, getting his first varsity carry in the closing seconds of a 17-3 victory over Oklahoma State in the fifth game of the season. He had moved up on the depth chart after Miles was sidelined by an injury, even making the ill-fated trip to Syracuse.

Jones played sparingly as a freshman, carrying only 29 times for 186 yards. He capped a solid spring by rushing for 99 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries in the Red-White game, then dealt with the redshirt issue again in the fall of his sophomore season. If he were going

to sit most of the time, a good possibility given the fact DuBose had led the Big Eight in rushing as a sophomore in 1984, he would just as soon redshirt.

Whether Jones would redshirt was an ongoing concern during fall camp. "It seems like somebody brings it up every couple of days," Osborne said after one practice.

Even though Jones would go into the season at No. 3 on the depth chart, behind DuBose and Miles, Osborne was inclined to play him. The reason was obvious. When it came to "taking a kickoff and going 100 yards or turning a conventional running play into a touchdown," Osborne said, "Keith is probably as effective as anybody on the team, including DuBose."

Jones played in 10 games as a sophomore, carrying 38 times for 240 yards and three touchdowns. He also scored on a 98-yard kickoff return.

It was beginning to appear that Jones might have only one season as the No. 1 I-back if that with redshirting.

DuBose was promoted as a Heisman Trophy candidate prior to the 1986 season, when Jones would be a junior.

During fall camp, however, DuBose suffered a knee injury that ended his college career. And Jones found himself atop

the depth chart, at last.

He responded by rushing for 830 yards and 14 touchdowns. He was first-team All-Big Eight despite finishing the season with a special cast on his thumb following corrective surgery for a torn ligament, suffered in a 38-0 victory over Kansas State.

Jones missed one game because of the injury, and it appeared he might miss the remainder of the season.

But "I couldn't imagine a thumb injury setting me out for the rest of the season," he said after rushing for 117 yards and two touchdowns in a 70-0 romp over Kansas.

Jones had 93 of those rushing yards and both of his touchdowns by the end of the first quarter. That same explosiveness led to his going over 1,000 yards the next season when he was a senior on Nebraska's 10-2 team. ■



Keith Jones ran NU's second-fastest 40 time his first year. He set the record as a sophomore.

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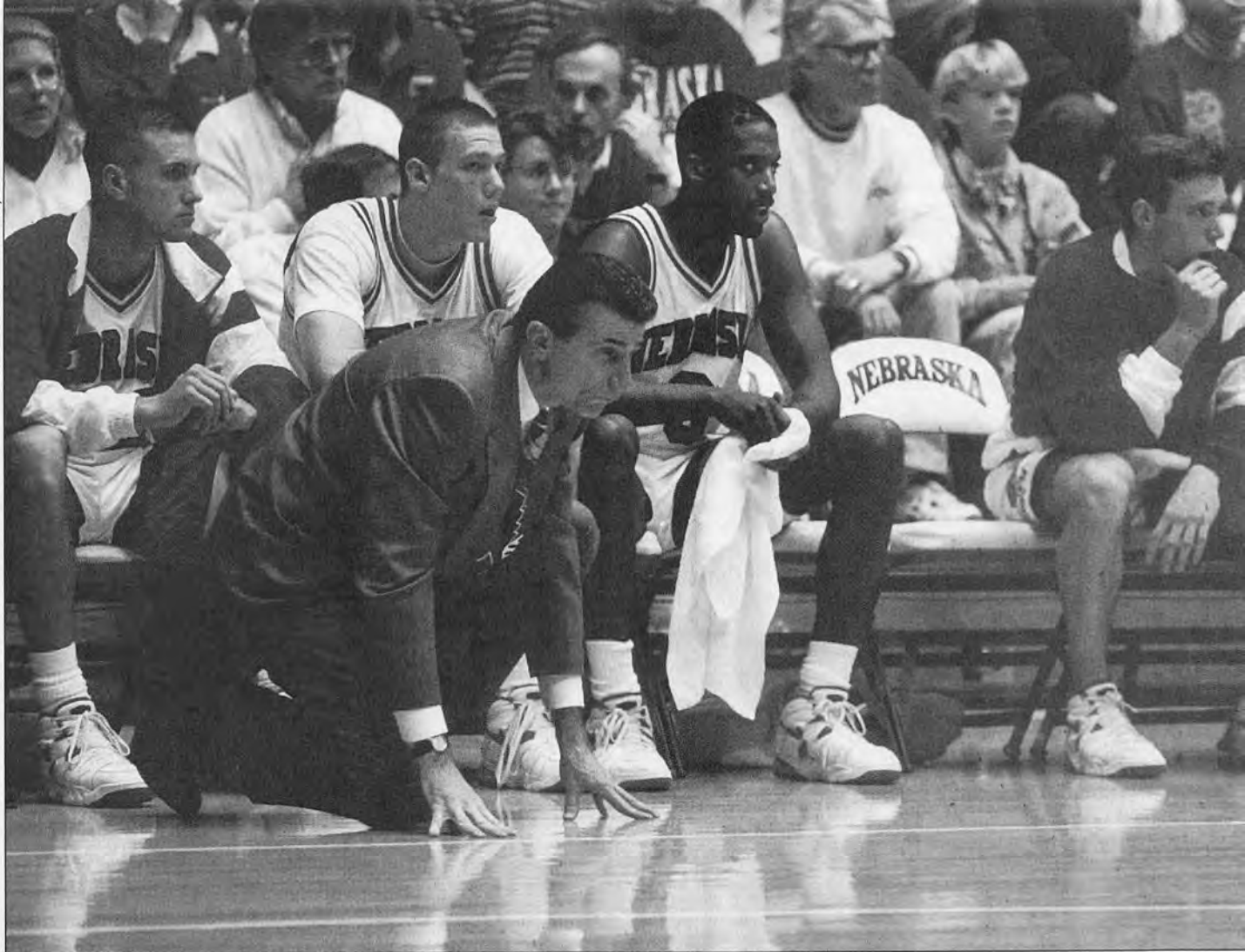
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Guarded Optimism

The Huskers expect success in Danny Nee's 10th year — if they can avoid mistakes

The Nebraska basketball program will celebrate its 100th anniversary this season. It will be coach Danny Nee's 10th Nebraska season. "I've got 10 percent of them," Nee said as an enthusiastic crowd estimated at 7,000 arrived at the Devaney Sports Center for "Midnight Blues" on the Saturday night of the Missouri football game.

He will have. Right now, he has coached only nine percent of Nebraska's basketball seasons. Yet he has coached nearly 15 percent of Nebraska's victories.

Only the late Joe Cipriano coached more Cornhusker victories than Nee, with 253 in 17 seasons. That means Nee needs this

and seven more to equal Cipriano's season total. With an average of about 11 victories a season, Nee would tie him in victories.

The point is, Nee's impact on Nebraska basketball history already has been significant. But he wants an even greater impact by eliminating a couple of glaring deficiencies.



T h e
Cornhuskers have

never won a Big Eight regular-season title, and they've never won a game in the NCAA tournament. "I tell the players, if they want a piece of history, that's what they've got to do," Nee said. "We want a piece of history."

Nebraska last celebrated a conference basketball championship in 1950, when coach Harry Good's Huskers shared the Big Seven title with Kansas and Kansas State. Since 1958-59, when Oklahoma State joined to form the Big Eight, the Cornhuskers' highest finish has been second. They've accomplished that six times, including once under Nee. They tied for second in 1993.

In 1994, Nebraska won the Big Eight Tournament championship for the first time. Now, Nee would like to take the program to yet

By MIKE BABCOCK

another level. That will be the focus for season No. 100. This year's motto is "No Excuses."

"What I'm asking the seniors, the older players to do, is give me their career bests," Nee said.

Senior Jaron Boone, for example, made 82.1 percent of his free throws as a freshman. His free throw percentage dropped to .705 as a sophomore and .679 last season — even though his scoring average increased.

"Now, we want that 80 percent," said Nee.

Boone will be a key, and not just by hitting free throws, after a junior season in which he earned second-team all-conference recognition. His scoring average of 17.5 points per game was the second-highest in the Big Eight among returning players.

Boone "is just overflowing with talent and potential," Nee said. "His Big Eight stats (in 1994-95) were magnificent." During conference play, especially, "he was almost Superman."

Erick Strickland has similar talent and has already shown he is willing to step up this season. During a recent team meeting, Strickland was quick to voice his opinion.

Such forthrightness is important, especially from the seniors, according to Nee. "It's going to be a senior-driven team," he said.

"We had a lot of immaturity last

year. We were too high after the wins and too low after the losses."

There were more victories than losses overall, 18 compared to 14. But the Cornhuskers were 4-10 in the Big Eight, finish seventh. They didn't get an NCAA Tournament bid for the first time in five seasons.

Last season represented "a step back," Nee said.

Some of the problems could be measured statistically. Nebraska ranked seventh in the conference in team defense and rebound margin.

Some of the problems could not. Communication, for example, wasn't what it should have been. That has changed, Nee said. "My communication with Jaron and all of the players has been as good as it has been since I got here."

It is comparable to the level of communication he had with his first team, inherited from Moe Iba in 1986-87. "The first year, those were great kids. They had been beaten up so bad, they were just starving, begging for some structure," Nee said.

"I just came in and said: 'Look, this is what we're going to do. This is how we're going to do it. What don't you want to do?' It was an easy team to coach, and this group has responded the same way."

To facilitate communication, the players have initiated a point system similar to that used by the football team's unity council.

Players are automatically penalized, sometimes by suspension from games, for losing a certain number of points.

Some players already were losing points before practices began on Oct. 15, Nee said.

The emphasis of the early practices was defense. Based on an evaluation of films of last season, the need for improved defense was glaringly obvious, Nee said.

"Seven guys scored 30 points (or more) against us, most of them in the Big Eight. I just feel that's critical. We have to have a defensive identi-

men's hoops 1995-96 schedule

DATE	EVENT/OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
N8	*Spalding Americas	7:05 p.m.
N16	*Team Pella	7:05 p.m.
N25-27	Big Island Invitational&	
N25	vs. Toledo	7:15 p.m.
N26	vs. Wichita St./Utah St.	TBA
N27	Finals	TBA
Field: Nebraska, Utah State, Minnesota, Valparaiso, Oregon, Hawaii, Toledo, Wichita St.		
D1-2	Ameritas Classic\$	
D1	vs. Georgia Southern	6:30 p.m.
D2	Consolation	1:00 p.m.
D2	Championship	3:10 p.m.
Field: Nebraska, Georgia Southern, Pepperdine, Grambling State		
D6	@Creighton	7:05 p.m.
D9	@Minnesota	6:00 p.m.
D16	Northern Iowa	7:05 p.m.
D18	NE Illinois	7:05 p.m.
D21	Delaware State	7:05 p.m.
D29-30	Far West Classic#	
D29	vs. Oregon	8:30 p.m.
D30	Consolation	8:30 p.m.
D30	Championship	10:45 p.m.
Field: Nebraska, Oregon, Oregon State, Mississippi State		
J3	Texas	7:05 p.m.
J6	Long Beach State	1:05 p.m.
J10	Colorado	7:05 p.m.
J13	@Oklahoma	12:45 p.m.
J17	Missouri-Kansas City	7:05 p.m.
J20	@Oklahoma State	12:45 p.m.
J24	Missouri	7:05 p.m.
J28	Kansas	2:00 p.m.
J31	@Kansas State	7:05 p.m.
F3	Iowa State	12:45 p.m.
F7	@Missouri	7:05 p.m.
F10	@Iowa State	12:45 p.m.
F17	Oklahoma State	8:05 p.m.
F19	@Kansas	8:30 p.m.
F25	Oklahoma	Noon
F28	@Colorado	8:00 p.m.
M3	Kansas State	1:05 p.m.
M8-10	Big Eight Tournament^	TBA
M8	Quarter Finals	
M9	Semifinals	
M10	Finals	

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Danny Nee has asked Jaron Boone (24) and the other seniors to give him their career bests this season.

ty."

He devoted 90 minutes of the first two-hour practice to defense and would continue to do so "until I get a comfort level," he said.

Nee's second concern is improving the team's rebounding, and "then we're going to run, really push the ball up the floor."

Nee's "guarded optimism" seems to be justified. "I think our own worst enemy is going to be ourselves," he said. ■

Speedy Ends

Nebraska has traditionally recruited quick defensive ends, and this recruiting class should be no different

By JAMES HALE

The Nebraska defense, once dominated by size, is now built on speed. Couple that fact with the Huskers' recent national dominance, and it's easy to see why highly touted athletes from across the nation want to play for Nebraska.

As with any defense built around speed and quickness, the Huskers rely heavily on speedy defensive ends to create an outside pass rush. One of the best ways to get quick ends is to recruit outside linebackers, then turn them into linemen. That's one of NU's recruiting strategies.

Courtney Brown (6-foot-6, 230 pounds, 4.6 40-yard dash) of Moncks (S.C.) Macedonia is a perfect fit for the Huskers. Brown, who is rated by many as the overall No. 1 recruit in the country, doubles as an explosive tight end, but his skills as a pass rusher have attracted most of the attention.

As a junior, Brown managed 168 tackles, eight tackles for losses, four sacks and two interceptions. On offense, he caught 38 passes for 632 yards and five touchdowns. He's also a mean power forward on the basketball court, where his 37-inch vertical jump comes in handy.

"I enjoy playing tight end, but it certainly is a lot more fun hitting people on defense," Brown said. "I think the game really starts on defense, the side of the ball where I really think you can take control of the game. I am looking forward to playing on the outside in college. Watching the great ones rush the passer is the best part of football."

Brown will get plenty of opportunity to rush the passer and stuff the run on the collegiate level. He could keep his weight down and play the stand-up outside linebacker, or put on some weight and play on the line. Whatever position he plays, he considers is strongly considering Nebraska.

"Right now, Nebraska seems to be the most dominant team in the country," he said. "They just seem to do things right on a football field. I just love the way Nebraska plays football."

Brown also likes Notre Dame, South Carolina, Clemson, Penn State and Michigan.

Jessie Warren (6-6, 255, 4.6) of Dallas Carter may be the best pure defensive end in the country. He's relentless in pursuit of the quarterback and has unlimited potential.

"The only thing that can stop Jessie is Jessie himself," Carter coach



Enid, Okla., defensive end Ryan Allen has Nebraska at the top of his recruiting list.

Freddie James said. "Warren plays with great enthusiasm and is impossible to block with just one man. I think he can even improve his speed once he gets into a college weight room. He has a great future ahead of him, and I think he will be a dominant player for some college."

Nebraska may be the early leader, even though Warren said he's received offers from many other big-time college football programs in the country. Texas, Texas A&M and Oklahoma are among them.

Damione Lewis (6-4, 265, 4.67) of Sulphur Springs, Texas, is rated right along with Warren. He has set visits with Miami and Florida, and expects visits with Nebraska, Texas A&M and Michigan.

"Nebraska has that winning tradition that you can't ignore," Lewis said. "They have great coaches, and I like large schools."

Eric Jefferson (6-4, 250, 4.7) of Shreveport (La.) Evangel Academy is a preseason All-American and a natural defensive end. Jefferson, the state's top prospect, is considering several schools, including Nebraska,

END AROUND

Speed and quickness are the mainstays of the Nebraska defense. The following defensive ends would fit well in the Nebraska system and are considering the Huskers.

Player	Ht.	Wt.	40	Schools Under Consideration
Ryan Allen	6-4	248	4.7	NEB, KS ST, ARK, COL
Courtney Brown	6-6	230	4.6	NU, ND, S CAR, CLEM
Quincy Hipps	6-4	240	4.7	UGA, MIA, UCLA, NEB
Eric Jefferson	6-4	250	4.7	FSU, PSU, NEB, LSU, PITT
Terrel Jurineak	6-5	225	4.7	NEB, FLA, MIA, PITT, ND
Damione Lewis	6-4	265	4.7	MIA, FLA, NEB, A&M, MICH
Brett Mueller	6-5	255	4.9	MIA, FLA, AUB, NEB, WASH
Darrell Streeter	6-3	260	4.8	NEB, MIA, USC, OU, MO
Carlton Thomas	6-5	255	4.8	ILL, WISC, PSU, OH ST, NEB
Jessie Warren	6-6	255	4.6	NU, TEX, A&M, OU, ARK
Michael Young	6-3	255	4.7	IOWA, ILL, KS ST, NEB, ARK

Florida State, Texas A&M, LSU, Penn State, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and Colorado.

In Florida, **Terrel Jurineak** (6-5, 225, 4.7) of Orlando Cypress Creek is one of the top 25 players in the state. He favors Florida State slightly, in front of Nebraska, Florida, Miami, Pittsburgh, Notre Dame, Texas A&M and Syracuse.

Quincy Hipps (6-4, 240, 4.7) of Tampa Catholic also is considering Nebraska.

"The Nebraska defense works very hard, and I love that kind of play," Hipps said. "Leaving Florida doesn't bother me. I just want to play on a team that has a reputation as one of the best in the country."

Hipps is leaning toward Georgia, Miami, UCLA, Nebraska, Syracuse, Michigan and Iowa State.

In Big 10 country, **Carlton Thomas** (6-5, 255, 4.8) of Kankakee, Ill., is a very active defensive end averaging 10 tackles per game.

Thomas has scheduled a visit to Illinois and wants to take a look at several schools, including Wisconsin, Ohio State, Penn State, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Iowa.

Preseason All-American **Brett Mueller** (6-4, 255, 4.9) of Fairfax (Va.) Robinson hopes to visit Miami, Florida, Auburn, Nebraska, Washington and Michigan.

The Huskers may pull another top recruit out of Oklahoma. Last year, the Huskers went to Enid, Okla., and left with outside linebacker Kareem Sears. This year, Nebraska's after one of Sears' best friends, **Ryan Allen** (6-4, 248, 4.7), also of Enid.

"I really like Nebraska and went to see them play earlier this year," Allen said. "Kareem and I are great friends, and all weekend I heard how great Nebraska was. I would agree with him that Nebraska's football program is very impressive."

Darrell Streeter (6-3, 260, 4.8) of Florissant (Mo.) McClure draws rave reviews in the Midwest. Streeter is a three-year starter at defensive end and middle linebacker. He is interested in Nebraska, Miami, USC, Oklahoma, Missouri and Boston College.

Michael Young (6-3, 225, 4.7) of Hazelwood (Mo.) East has visits set with Iowa, Illinois and Kansas State with hopes of taking trips to Nebraska and Arkansas.

The aforementioned defensive ends — all national top 200 players — could certainly keep the Husker defense quick and effective. ■



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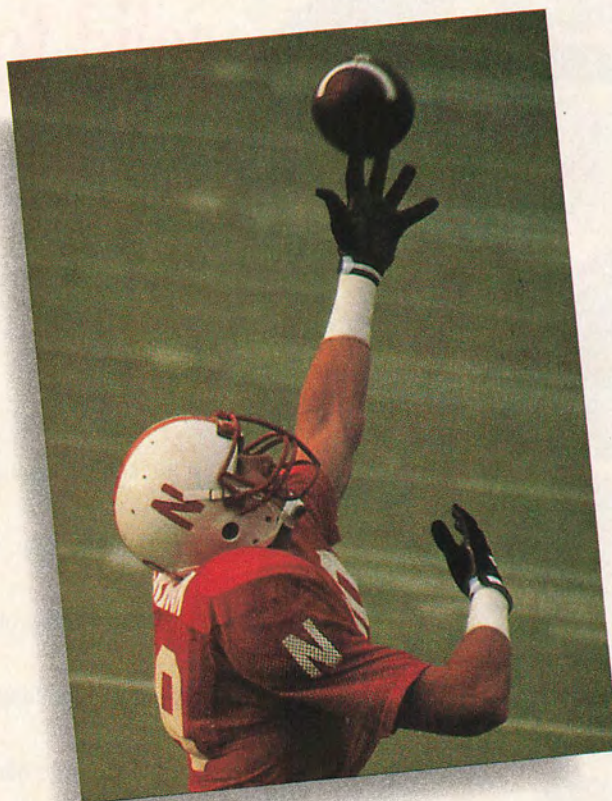
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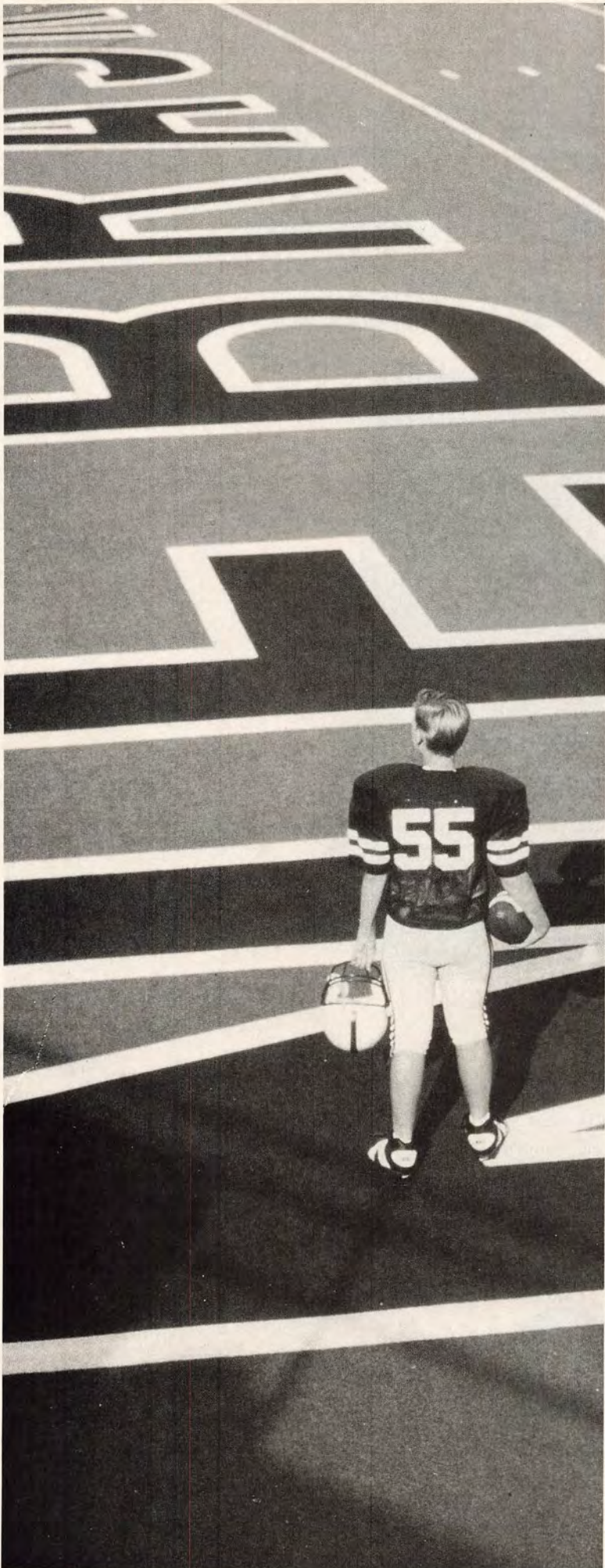


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**Janet Blomstedt
becomes first NU athlete
to win an individual
international junior track
and field title with
heptathlon
victory**

MEDAL MOMENT

When Janet Blomstedt first stepped foot on the Nebraska campus as a student, she thought of herself as just a sprinter on the Husker track team.

Shortly into workouts with Husker coaches, however, Blomstedt reluctantly agreed to add the hurdles, shot put, high jump, long jump, javelin and a middle-distance race to her repertoire.

She proved to be a quick learner.

Early in September, Blomstedt won the heptathlon at the Pan American Junior Track and Field Championships in Santiago, Chili — her first international competition. She became the first athlete from the United States to win the event at the Pan American meet, which has been held every other year since 1980.

She also became the first University of Nebraska athlete to win an individual international junior (age 19 and under) track and field title.

Blomstedt wasn't the only Husker to win an event at the meet, though. Doreen Heldt also experienced a

taste of winning an international meet in Chili. Heldt, a sophomore from Lisco, won the Pan Am women's hammer throw title.

Blomstedt doesn't claim to be a natural in the multi-event competition. Instead, she knew her weaknesses and turned them into assets.

This was especially true in

Hershey. "I've been doing these events for less than a year, and to win an international competition was totally unexpected. It was a dream come true."

Now, because of her success in the heptathlon, Blomstedt's goals are even loftier. If she can score more than 5,500 points in the multi-event competition during any meet this season, she will

improve her chances of qualifying for the U.S. Olympic Trials, held June 14-23 in Atlanta's yet-to-be-completed Olympic Stadium.

The top 24 American heptathletes will compete at the trials for spots on the Olympic track

team.

A score of 5,500 most likely will be good enough to qualify.

As a youngster, Blomstedt remembers watching U.S. record-setting sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. She hoped to imitate her



"To win an international competition was totally unexpected. It was a dream come true."

— Janet Blomstedt

the 800-meter run and the shot put, events in which she set personal-best marks at the Pan Am meet that led to her total score of 5,304 points.

"I had to learn everything," said Blomstedt, a sophomore from

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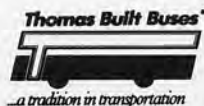
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Now, Blomstedt said she can almost picture herself competing against Jackie Joyner Kersee, considered the greatest multi-event athlete in history by many track and field experts.

"My idol used to be Flo-Jo (Griffith-Joyner) because I was a sprinter," Blomstedt said. "But I've always admired Jackie because she's the best female athlete in the world. In my wildest imaginations, I never thought I'd have a chance to compete with her."

Blomstedt's goals for track and field haven't advanced beyond the trials. Yet.

"Right now, I think my goals are pretty lofty," she said. "I want to make the trials next year. Before this month, I never thought that would be possible. If I'm willing to put in the time to do it, it's there for the taking. If I improve a lot and make the trials, who knows how far I can take this in the future? But I'm not thinking about that right now."

It was while standing atop the awards stand at the Pan Am Junior Championships that Blomstedt began pondering bigger and better things in the world of track and field. She remembers thinking back to when she first put on a Team USA uniform just prior to the meet.

"That was special," she said. "That's when it really started to get to me. My awards ceremony was the day after I won the event, so I had time to put my emotions in check. What I remember most is putting on the uniform — that was wonderful."

Heldt doesn't have a gold medal like Blomstedt's to help remind her of the Pan Am meet. The hammer throw was an exhibition event last month, but it will become a medal sport beginning in 1997.

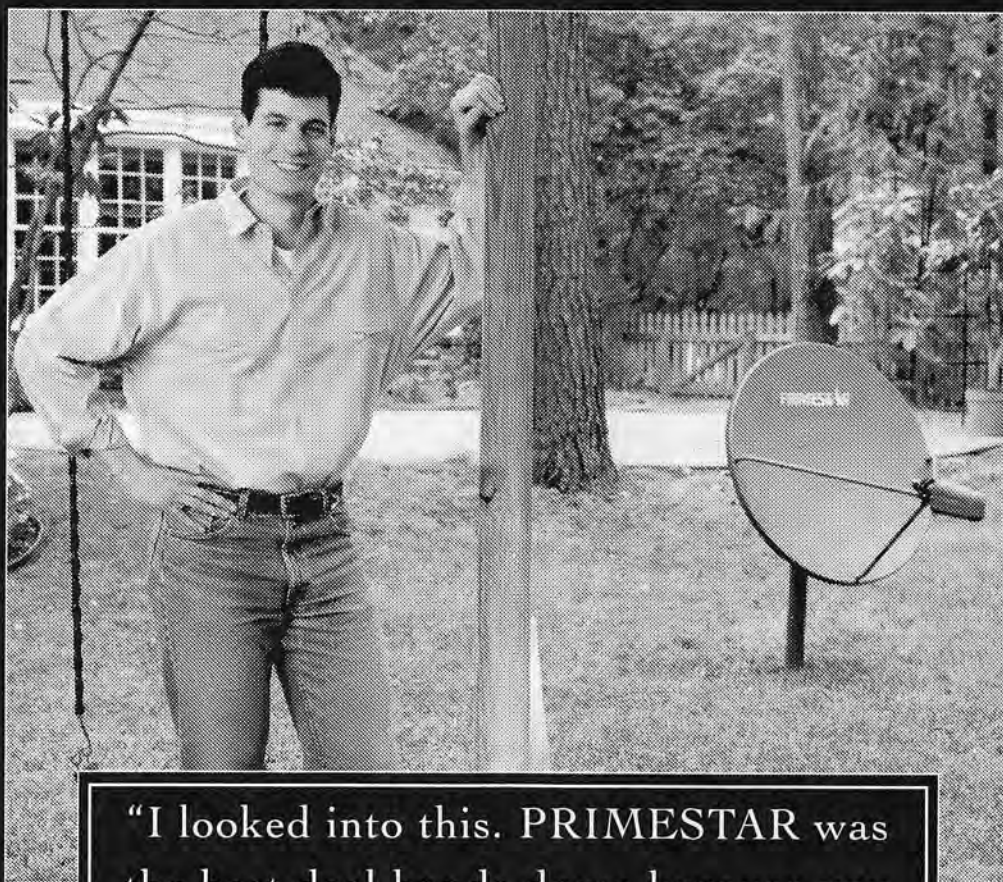
But Heldt doesn't mind being a trendsetter.

"I don't have a medal, but I know I won the first hammer throw there," she said. "The record won't be there in my name, but I'll always know I was the first to do it."

Heldt won the event with a toss of 150 feet, 6 inches — well short of her personal-best toss of 162-0. Heldt was a last-minute replacement for the team, so she didn't have as much time to prepare for the competition as she would have liked.

To prepare for the meet, Heldt would throw every day in a cornfield on her family's farm near Lisco.

"Maybe I've started a trend, but I doubt it," she said with a smile. ■



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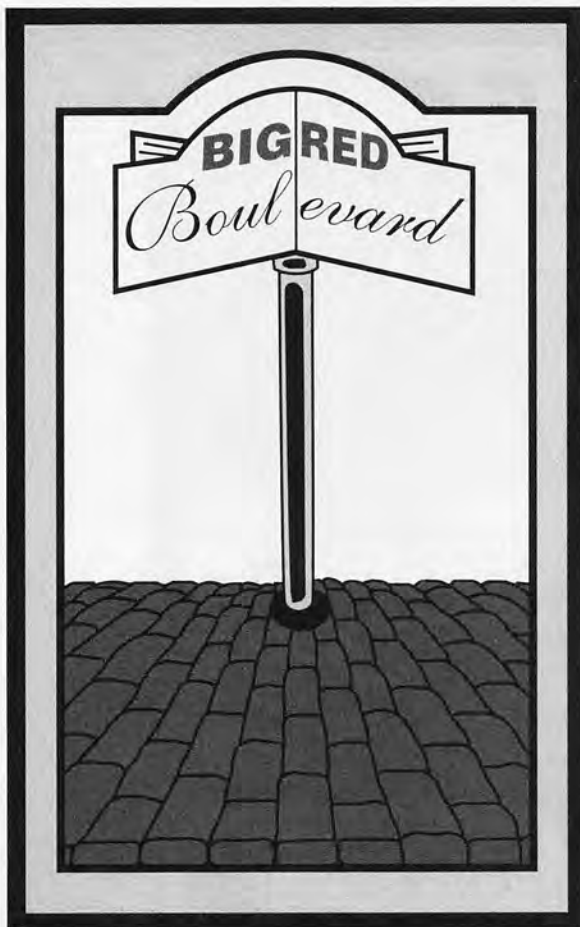
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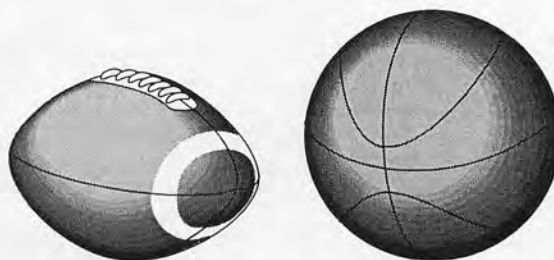
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Cool And Confident

At 7-0, Nebraska and Tommie Frazier are showing few signs of slowing down

By MIKE BABCOCK

Tommie Frazier sidestepped questions related to Colorado with as much ease as he had sidestepped defenders in Nebraska's 49-25 victory over Kansas State on Saturday.

Would the Colorado game be special?

"Some people say it is," Frazier said. He wouldn't include himself among those people, however. One opponent is just like another.

Well then, would the Cornhuskers be confident going into this week's game at Boulder?

"If we don't have confidence, they might blow us out," Frazier said. His answer couldn't be construed as inflammatory. No bulletin board quotes from him.

Nebraska has several reasons to be confident going into Saturday's game, which will be televised regionally by ABC. And one of them is Frazier — though, of course, he wouldn't say so.

The Kansas State game underscored Frazier's value, just as each of the Cornhuskers' previous six games had. "Tommie has a good game every week," said freshman I-back Ahman Green.

Frazier tied a school record by throwing four touchdown passes against the Wildcats. But there was more to his performance than the obvious statistics.

With the score 7-6 midway through the first quarter, Frazier directed a 15-play, 75-yard touchdown drive, which culminated in Jon Vedral's recovery of a Clinton Childs fumble into the end zone. Three times Nebraska faced third downs during the drive, and three times Frazier found a way to pick up the first down.

On the first of the three, the Cornhuskers needed at least 8 yards, and Frazier ran for 9 yards. On the second, they needed 14 yards, and Frazier passed to Green for 19 yards. On the third, Nebraska needed 2 yards, and Frazier picked up 3 yards. Elapsed time of the drive was 7:13. It was Nebraska's longest of the season. And it showcased Frazier's leadership.

On the Cornhuskers' next possession, they drove 61 yards on eight plays for a touchdown. One of those

Bob Berry



Tommie Frazier tied a school record throwing for four touchdowns including this acrobatic catch by Sheldon Jackson in the second quarter.

plays was a third-and-7 at the Kansas State 47-yard line. Frazier set up to pass, couldn't find an open receiver to his liking, put the ball away and ran for 15 yards and the first down.

Time and again, Frazier made such plays, which someone less-



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skilled and mature couldn't have made. His performance was Heisman Trophy-caliber, but probably too subtle to be acknowledged as such.

Heisman Trophy? "I'm not worried about that," Frazier said in response to a question about college football's highest individual honor. "Individual honors aren't high on my list. If my best isn't good enough ..." He didn't need to finish.

Frazier is a regular at postgame interviews, which should come as no surprise. Certain players are requested as a matter of course.

There were a few less-familiar faces in the South Stadium varsity lounge after the Kansas State game, however, among them Mike Rucker, Luther Hardin and Chad Kelsay, all of whom are outside linebackers. In fact, Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom, the starting outside linebackers, also were there.

Tomich and Wistrom each had two quarterback sacks.

The play of the outside linebackers on Saturday, and in recent weeks, is another of the reasons for Cornhusker confidence going into the Colorado game. Nebraska's ability to put pressure on Buffaloes quarterback John Hessler should be a significant factor in the game's outcome.

Wistrom wasted no time in getting the first of his two sacks against Kansas State. On the Wildcats' second play from scrimmage, he broke through and dropped Matt Miller for a 4-yard loss. From that point on, Miller "was taking time to get up," said Tomich. "When a quarterback does that, it's a good sign."

If Wistrom didn't provide sufficient notification of the outside linebackers' intentions, Tomich certainly did late in the first half, when he made a clothesline tackle of Miller.

The Cornhuskers added a thing or two defensively for Kansas State, just as they'll add a thing or two for Colorado, Tomich said. "The coaches have always got something for every team."

The offense will look a little different, too, in all likelihood. Nebraska played well offensively in the first half against Kansas State. But the Cornhuskers might have lost a little of their edge in the second half, according to Frazier. He was asked if they had any offensive weaknesses at this point in the season.

"I'm pretty sure we do," he said. "But I'm not going to tell." ■

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